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## THE STATE OF EUROPE.

DURING the last week the tendency has been to believe that the world may escape, by good fortune, the calamitous strife which it has apprehended for three months. We are far from pledging ourselves to any such prophecy; but, humiliating as it is to Europe to have to watch the ebb and flow of the passions of a despotic government, in the way it has been doing lately, one must make the best of the situation. The resignation of Prince Napoleon—the tone of the “*Moniteur*”—the movements of the funds—have certainly indicated a lull in the recent agitation, and may be beneficially studied. Conscious as we are, that all may alter, as by a shift of the wind, to-morrow, it may yet be worth while to consider why just at present we are a little more hopeful of peace than we have been.

It has often come in our way to remark, that even despotism cannot altogether get the upper-hand of civilisation. The ugly character of that form of government, and that which points every assault on it with pungent sarcasms, is its subordinating everything to single wills, or to the wills of men influenced only by favourites, whose interest it is always to flatter, and sometimes to deceive them. This is France's position, and what is more, it is more purely her position than that of any other State. In Germany, the aristocracies, the universities, and the literary classes, have an amount of influence of their own far more considerable than is the case in France; while the universal suffrage of the latter country practically amounts in politics to no political freedom at all. But yet this despotism, which there is nothing in the shape of institutions to oppose, cannot, after all, have its own way even in its most tempting projects of ambition. It must pause, equivocate, cajole, retreat, in spite of its armies, its press-warnings, and all. Louis Napoleon cannot be Louis Quatorze. If provisions were as dear for a day, relatively to the means of the people, as in the days of Louis XIV., his throne would go down. While if the showy, old debauched Bourbon had had half Napoleon's motives for getting a little “glory” in Italy, his lilies would have long since been waving over a silken tent outside Milan. This consoles one, partly, when one contemplates the mockery of the old *régime*, of which pictures arrive in this country from Paris—the hunts, in antique costumes, of sycophants and stock-jobbers, mimicking the by-gone brilliance of a Montmorency or a Noailles. It is pleasant to recall old David Hume's dictum, that, after all, every kind of power rests in the long-run on opinion.

But though this kind of consolation tends to make despotism more tolerable, it is only by making it more contemptible. Supposing that we do escape war—that the influence of opinion, which has lately made it less probable, should be able to hinder it altogether—on what have we to look back? What mischief

—vast in its bulk, infinite in its operations—has the disturbance of confidence not produced? If a nation must depend on wisdom like this for its guidance, what may not happen when some other pet temptation assails the mind of the Emperor of the French? These are considerations which should make the servile pause, and which should warn, too, those whose policy leads to despotism, though it aims at something else. The Emperor has shown Europe, for nearly three months, the mischief of empire. It is just the silent and repressive character of his form of administration which has done the most harm; made rumour and terror prevail far and wide; and almost made it

hesitate to believe the “*Moniteur*,” or to accept even an event in the sense in which it ought to be accepted, in a world of plain-sailing. Prince Napoleon has resigned his appointment; but can we be quite sure that this means abandonment of the Italian policy?—and is not simply a check *pro tem*, in a course to be followed up as eagerly as ever, soon?

We repeat, that though public opinion has made itself felt so far, there can be no certainty about the future. But there are still some facts which ought to tell in the good cause, and which this country may well be glad to observe. Lord Cowley's mission, if it is a sign that England wishes Austria

to be moderate, is a sign also that we do not wish France to be supreme. Austria has received that diplomatist in a way which shows that the two Powers understand each other perfectly, and it will be much to our honour if he shall have succeeded in arbitrating between the dissatisfied Governments. We have several times explained our own views as to the degree to which Austria ought to have our sympathies in her present position. With Austria, as unduly or improperly conducting her Italian administration, we can have no fellow-feeling; and when special complaints of that kind reach the English press, it has always dealt very frankly with them. But we do not find that that kind of complaint is, after all, much laid before us. If one reads a pamphlet of Mazzini's, the crime really laid to her charge in Italy, is her being in Italy at all. And it is curious to observe that that is just our own case with regard to the Ionian Islands. What we do is not dwelt upon, but we are generally told that we have no right to be there at all. Now, if solemn treaties, old establishments, and settled arrangements, are to be once for all set aside in Europe, this sort of thing has a right to a hearing. But the world does not desire any such comprehensive measure, nor, we may add, has it confidence enough in the character of those who do appear to desire it, to induce it to change its existing opinion on the subject. Yet we must either insist on this, and allow it to overcome our sympathies with Italy altogether, or follow France's lead in overthrowing the entire settlement of affairs. It is quite impossible that Great Britain should take the last course, or counter-

nance France in her pretensions to dictate to independent States. On the contrary, she should rejoice to see that Germany and Switzerland have spoken out so strongly in the cause of national dignity; and, in fact, have left it all but certain that the Emperor shall only purchase war in Italy by running the risk of having it on his frontiers.

Matters must be settled—though Paris is the head-quarters of evasion—soon. It remains to be seen how far Austria, backed by the consciousness of a splendid army, and of the unpopularity of war in modern France, will yield. We have no doubt that



RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.)

impossible to know what to believe even or what is stated in the most open and impressive language. Probably this abuse of language is the worst sign of the whole; and it has often been remarked of the First Empire, by writers, that the falsehoods of the great Napoleon's bulletins did more than anything else to debauch the French *morale*, and ultimately to destroy confidence in his government.

Indeed, if we hesitate at this moment to believe that Europe is out of the threatened mess, it is mainly because we cannot be sure of the veracity of French officialism. We involuntarily





Lord Cowley has done his best to secure the peace of the world, and we trust and believe that he has been listened to. By withdrawing from every portion of the Papal States, and confining herself to those towns and territories which she holds under the arrangements of 1815, she will remove every fair pretext for complaint. Whether, however, she is to give up her connection with the minor Italian potentates, is another question, and one on which Great Britain is hardly entitled, we think to lay down the law to her. Probably, in a war arising out of this last point, we should be neutral; while, in the case of a demand for "Italy for the Italians," a general European war is more than probable. Just at present, however, the horizon is clearer: the dissatisfaction of France has made itself heard and felt—and the resolution of Germany, and the impartiality of Britain, are seen and respected, in those regions of imperialism which flattery represents as too lofty for the operation of matter-of-fact influences. We shall be glad, of course, if all goes well, for the good's own sake, but additionally glad when it becomes apparent that tyranny itself is not unchecked in its operations even now; that Europe has not entirely lost that generous dislike of absolutism which has run for ever in the blood of its Gothic conquerors.

#### THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE.

His labours in Ionia completed, Mr. Gladstone has returned to England, where, it is hoped, they will be more successfully employed. That his mission proved abortive, however, nobody attributes to any miscarriage on his part; and he takes his seat in the House of Commons a more famous and influential man than when he quitted it. For a long time he has been one of the "greatest guns" in that senatorial establishment.

The three men in the House whom "strangers" in the gallery, both English and foreign, desire most to see, are Palmerston, Disraeli, and Gladstone. "Which is Palmerston?" is always the first question; "Which is Disraeli?" the second; and then comes, "And where is Gladstone?" Lord Palmerston is as familiar to our readers as "the duke" used to be to all Londoners; Disraeli is not much less so; but we have said but little about Gladstone. Now the reason of this is, we candidly confess, because it is not an easy thing to describe this extraordinary man. He is so chameleon-like, and looks so different from different stand-points. However, we will now try. At all events, we can give a sketch of his history, his person, and his manner of speaking.

#### HIS HISTORY.

The Right Honourable William Ewart Gladstone was born at Liverpool in 1809; he is therefore fifty years old. His father was Sir John Gladstone, a Liverpool merchant, and owner of estates in both the East and West Indies. He received the usual education of youths of his class, passing from Eton to Christ Church, Oxford; where he took what is technically called a "double first," which means that he gained the highest degree of excellence in classics and mathematics. He entered Parliament as member for Newark in 1832, professing Conservative and High-church principles. He was not long in finding his way to the ministerial benches; his mercantile origin and university success, recommended him to the discerning eye of Sir Robert Peel, who was not slow in picking up merit. He was appointed a Lord of the Treasury in 1834; but on the failure of the Hon. S. Wortley, who had been appointed Under-secretary for the Colonies, to obtain his seat, Mr. Gladstone was transferred to the office thus vacated. He resigned this post in April, 1835. In September, 1841, he was appointed Vice-President of the Board of Trade and Master of the Mint. In this situation he gave general satisfaction to his colleagues. "He was, in truth," remarks an eminent journalist, since deceased, "a right hand of the government. His deferential and self-possessed oratory pleased the House; and a quasi-commercial smartness satisfied the numerous deputations which visited his office that the business of the nation was in qualified hands." In May, 1843, Mr. Gladstone was raised to the Presidency of the Board of Trade, retaining at the same time his office of Master of the Mint. These emoluments he resigned in February, 1845, being then made Secretary for the Colonies; on resigning this, he remained in Opposition till the formation of Lord Aberdeen's Cabinet, in 1853, when he took the responsible post of Chancellor of the Exchequer. In Lord Palmerston's Government he filled the same office, till led to retire by the conduct of the Premier about the Sebastopol committee. Such events, as well as his recent employment in Ionia, are, however, too fresh in the memory of our readers to need more than reference.

Mr. Gladstone married, in 1839, the eldest daughter of the late Sir Stephen Richard Glynn, Bart., of Hawarden, by whom he has had three sons and four daughters, one of whom died in 1850. In 1839, Mr. Gladstone published "The State in its Relation to the Church," a book which showed evident traces of the influence of Alma Mater. The midnight oil that had been consumed in its composition was certainly supplied by Messrs. Spiers and Son, and had probably been charged to John Gladstone, Esq., "as supplied to W. E. Gladstone, Esq., student of Christ Church." The "Tracts for the Times," the preaching of Newman, Pusey, Keble, and others of the Tractarian school, had evidently taken effect upon the mind of the member for Newark, and we find that he has never entirely forsaken those opinions, though he has certainly put them in a back cupboard on several occasions of his parliamentary life. "The State in its Relation to the Church" laboured to prove that all who were employed in the duties of the state should be members of the church for which the state legislated. Macaulay questioned this theory with great cleverness in the "Edinburgh Review." He showed that Mr. Gladstone's theory would be equally applicable to railway directors, or stage-coach proprietors, as to those who held the helm of state. But the fact was, that Mr. Gladstone's theory was as unsound as Macaulay's ground of attacking it, so that the contest might have lasted for ever without a step being gained by either party. Mr. Gladstone followed up this book by another, "Church Principles Considered in their Results," in which he administered some hard blows to the Roman Catholic church. He has also attacked the "Royal Supremacy," and supported the right of laymen to assist in the functions of the church, in letters addressed to the Bishops of London and Glasgow.

These characteristics pointed out Gladstone as a fit member to represent the University of Oxford. Though suspected by the Tories, he gave satisfaction to his constituents for a time, till his speech on the Jew Bill—supporting a measure against which they petitioned, and overthrowing all the conclusions of his book on Church and State—sadly damaged him in their eyes.

Being thus somewhat deceived by Mr. Gladstone, the University ought to have been prepared for his acceptance of office in the Aberdeen Government. But this was more than they expected. A violent opposition was set up against the return of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the new Government. He was still strongly supported, but one hundred and fifty-eight of his supporters fell away from his side. However, what Captain Costigan calls an unlucky "coalteratong"—by bewildering his opponents—helped him to carry his election. The Conservatives were not sure of their man, and thus put up a candidate against his will, whose name they had afterwards to withdraw.

When looking upon Mr. Gladstone's politics, we are frequently tempted to place him, with Sir Robert Peel, as "a great parliamentary middle-man." We are never sure of any decided line of conduct from the Peelites. They seem to be always ascending a steep political hill, where the necessities of the ground make them take a zigzag course. But Mr. Gladstone's efforts in behalf of religious liberty, are bright spots in the record of a long political life. His letters on the state of the Neapolitan prisoners, that brought down upon his head the wrath of Roman Catholics, who believed that nothing could go wrong in Italy, have reflected a world-wide credit upon his name.

#### MR. GLADSTONE'S SPEAKING.

Mr. Gladstone is incomparably the best speaker in the House; we say this unhesitatingly. Some give the palm to Disraeli, some to

Palmerston, others to Bright; but if the object of speaking is to convince an audience, then give Gladstone a right subject, and there is no one can come near him. The extent and accuracy of his knowledge on almost every subject, his dexterity in using that knowledge, and his exhaustive power of reasoning, are truly surprising, while his command of the English language is quite unexampled. Mr. Gladstone has probably spoken as much in the House as any man there, and yet we believe that he never was convicted of a misstatement; never lost the thread of his argument; and never hesitated for a word, during the whole course of his parliamentary career. We have heard Cobden say, that it is useless to speak after Gladstone, if you are on the same side, as he always exhausts the subject.

#### ITS FAULTS.

Gladstone's speaking, however, is not faultless—far from it. In matter it is too exhaustive. He is not contented with using the common arguments, nor even the less common; but when you think that really everything has been said that can be said, and the subject is quite exhausted, he will push on into the most refined subtleties; and though, if you have time, and can be amused with this logical hair-splitting, you may find them wonderfully clever and not uninteresting, yet for the public generally, and especially the House of Commons—who, for the most part, are not capable of appreciating such subtle discourse, and are always either anxious for dinner or a diversion—it is not suitable nor effective. Again, he is far too wordy. He has probably a greater command of words than any senator who ever spoke in the British Parliament. All the words in the language are his slaves; but, like other slaves, they often enumber rather than help. We have sometimes heard Gladstone speak tersely—and with no more words than he needed—but not often; when, however, he did so, his speeches were always the most effective. He is least wordy when he is most in earnest: when he is not confident of his position, he becomes most wordy. It must have been noticed by readers of the debates, that Gladstone seldom evokes either cheers or laughter. The reason why he is not cheered, is that he seldom deals in sentiment, and never condescends to clap-trap. He is a close reasoner, and close reasoning may hold the attention, but never evokes the cheers of the House. And, as to laughter, he never attempts a witticism. Indeed, he never laughs himself. We should say that he considers everything like mirth entirely out of place in a legislative assembly. We have seen the House in an ecstasy at one of Palmerston's jokes or Disraeli's satires, and Gladstone all the time as solemn as if he were in a church. And, to his credit be it said, he is never personal. He is too powerful in argument to need the aid of personalities, and, we verily believe, too conscientious to use them. How unlike to Disraeli! The latter is no reasoner—could not argue logically for his life; indeed, he seldom attempts it. He leaves that sort of artillery to his neighbours, Henley and Pakington. His strength lies in his witty sallies, paradoxical assertions, and bitter personalities; and, when he attempts to be serious and solid, his speeches are as vapid as spent soda-water.

#### HIS MANNER.

Mr. Gladstone's manner when he is speaking is generally energetic. When he is very earnestly pursuing his argument, he throws back his right arm until his hand touches his shoulder, and then throws it forward again. When he is less earnest—when he is introducing a fresh argument—his favourite position is bolt upright, with the finger of his right hand placed in the palm of his left. He never folds his arms across his breast, nor hooks his thumbs in the arm-hole of his waistcoat, nor shoves his hands into his waistcoat pocket, nor, indeed, uses any of the theatrical attitudes of Disraeli. In short, we very much doubt whether he ever studied action in his life. We have said that Gladstone seldom utters sentiment, and seldom evokes cheers. We remember, however, one occasion which was exceptional to this general rule. It was when Lord John Russell brought the Italian question before the House, and Mr. Bowyer, who always considers himself "retained" to defend the Pope, had been twaddling about Popish tyranny being no worse than French and Austrian. Mr. Gladstone rose after Mr. Bowyer; and we shall not soon forget the impression that he made when, raising himself to his full height, and turning his solemn eyes upon the Honourable Member, who sat immediately below him, and pointing down to him with his finger, he, with the utmost solemnity, uttered these remarkable words:—"Let not the Hon. Member think that there is no difference between civil and ecclesiastical tyranny: the former may voluntarily change and improve—the latter never." And here we must conclude. We should like to say something about Mr. Gladstone's character; not his moral character, which we consider irreproachable, but his mental; but it is a difficult subject, and our space is exhausted. We may, however, just say that, after all, we do not consider that he is a great orator, nor a great man; he is not an orator, but a rhetorician. And as to his mental status, we think Southey's opinion of him, when he first came out, is the true one:—"That, with all his knowledge and talents, there is more dexterity than strength in his mind." "The intellect (says Carlyle on Sir Harry Vane) that occupies itself in splitting hairs, and not in twisting some kind of cordage and effective draught tackle to take the road with, is not to me the most astonishing intellect."

#### HIS APPEARANCE.

Mr. Gladstone is about the middle height, and when young he must have been a handsome man. But time, the anxieties and cares of office, and hard work, both in the bureau and the study, have considerably changed his appearance. He is now a little round-shouldered, and his legs are too slight for his bodily frame, which is however not massive; and he does not walk well. And, moreover, though his broad forehead is still unwrinkled, and his fine black earnest eyes are undimmed, his face is deeply furrowed and careworn. We know not whether his recent sojourn in the Mediterranean will have been attended with any amount of repose; but, if not, for the benefit of both his bodily and mental health, we are persuaded it would be better for the Right Hon. Gentleman to lock his study-door for a time. It was said of a learned doctor that he laid so many books upon his brain that it could not move. "Mens sana in corpore sano" is the motto, after all, and this cannot be attained by an infraction of nature's laws.

#### CAPTAIN GLADSTONE.

Mr. Gladstone had a brother in the House during the last Parliament, Captain John Neilson Gladstone, R.N., and we mention him merely to remark upon the likeness and characteristic difference between the two brothers. The likeness is very marked. Every one may see at a glance that they are brothers, and when they were young they must have been much more alike. But one has been a sailor, and the other a philosophic statesman, and hence the difference. The statesman is what we have described. The sailor, though the older, looks the younger, and is taller, and more upright and manly in his appearance. In short, each shows unmistakably whence he has come and what he has been doing. One has been on the quarter-deck, exposed to wind and sun, the other in the office and the study, stooping over musty "Fathers," and wasting the midnight oil in attempting to solve unsolvable problems. One has had material elements to contend with, the other to battle with far more difficult opponents in the arena of political strife.

A PREP BEHIND THE SCENES.—The veteran statesman, Metternich, sees the coming whirlwind, and has done an act of a rather undiplomatic kind, but which the crisis must excuse. He has just revealed, in an autograph note to the Emperor Napoleon III., for the purpose of repelling the charge made against Austria of having been the life and soul of the European coalition against his great uncle, the actual fact of a secret proposal made after the disastrous retreat from Moscow, when France seemed on her last legs, for a relinquishment of hostilities on the part of Kaiser Franz, and a peace as far as Vienna was concerned, abandoning any claim to Lombardy, in return for a renewal of the Campa Formio Treaty, securing Dalmatia and the coast of Istria to Austria. The part Murat and Prince Schwarzenberg played in the transaction is dwelt on, and the willingness of his Imperial master to support the husband of Maria Louisa on the Imperial throne of France is set forth. All this is done "by permission," and authentic copy of the archives forwarded, showing its acknowledgment at Vienna, in 1812, by the Duc de Bassano, acting for Napoleon I.—PARIS CORRESPONDENT OF THE "GLOBE."

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

THE event of the week is the resignation of his offices by the Prince Napoleon. It is said that his resignation was at first refused by the Emperor; that it was again tendered, and again refused; and it was only when offered the third or fourth time that the Emperor consented to accept it. The Prince recommended as his successor M. Chasseloup-Laubat as Minister for Algeria and the Colonies, but it is doubtful whether he will accept the office. M. Rouher, Minister of Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works, will fulfil *ad interim* the functions of Minister for Algeria and the Colonies. Of course, several interpretations are placed upon this unexpected step. The "Daily News" says: "We have reason to believe that its acceptance has been dictated by temporary considerations, and will not be followed by any material changes in the ultimate aims of the external policy of the French Government." The rumour that Prince Napoleon is to be appointed Grand Admiral is revived.

The articles in the "Moniteur," which we reproduce in another column, have had a happy effect on the money-markets of Europe; it being supposed by some that these articles betray a desire on the part of the Emperor to withdraw from a dangerous position. About the evacuation of Rome, however, there is considerable uncertainty. The "Moniteur" has the following paragraph on the subject:—"The 'Constitutionnel' has announced that the evacuation of the States of the Church by our troops has been ordered by the Emperor, and that the French corps d'armée has received orders to withdraw to Civita Vecchia. This news is at least premature."

The Government papers at Paris have evidently received orders to open fire on the petty German Courts, and the tone adopted towards Munich amounts to a menace. Bavaria is plainly told that its peaceful existence is tolerated by France, but that if its attitude become, what it looks very like, "a challenge to fight," its wishes in that respect may be quickly gratified.

A decree has been issued prohibiting in France any person from assuming or using titles of whatever sort conferred by foreign authorities, unless special leave be granted by the Executive. This includes ecclesiastical titles.

### SPAIN.

A PROPOSAL to abolish the penalty of death in political cases, has been made in the Chamber of Deputies.

The Englishman condemned to death for having struck a Spanish sentry in Algeiras has been fully pardoned.

The Junta that is to manage the Exhibition has been appointed.

### AUSTRIA.

It is broadly stated that Austria has, according to article forty-seven of the final act of Vienna, proposed to the Federal Diet preparations for war. Meantime, the "Vienna Gazette," which is the Government organ, states that with the Austrian Cabinet the order of the Holy Father is decisive, and that as soon as Cardinal Antonelli's notification shall have been received the evacuation of the Austrian troops will follow.

Lord Cowley was to have left Vienna on Thursday. His departure has been evidently delayed unexpectedly. A Vienna letter of the 4th says: "The Cabinet of Vienna has made such statements on the subject of special treaties with the different Italian States, that his Lordship has found it necessary to refer the matter to his Government, and a Cabinet courier has been despatched to London to apply for fresh instructions."

Austria is said to have granted to foreign vessels the privilege of navigating the Danube.

### PRUSSIA.

THE "National Gazette" of Berlin publishes a long article on the existing political crisis, which declares that as long as France does not take any decided steps to disturb European peace, Prussia has not the slightest motive for assuming a hostile attitude with regard to that Power; and that above all things the German Governments should employ all their efforts to prevent the Austrian possessions in Italy, as being fully guaranteed to her, from becoming anew the subject of discussion in a congress.

### ITALY.

NAPLES continues to be agitated by rumours arising out of the illness of the King. A report of his death caused a fall of the funds; the contradiction a rise. Such of the foreign operators as were discovered were sent out of the country. It is said that ten archbishops have signed a memorial to the king on "the state of the nation."

The King of Naples has offered to furnish the Pope with four battalions of Swiss troops. It is also proposed to garrison Rome with Spanish troops.

The Archduke Governor has returned to Milan. The Austrian army in Italy has been placed on a war footing.

The Sardinian Government has decided that a portion of the loan—three-fifths—shall be raised in the kingdom itself by means of public subscriptions, and the alienation of 1,500,000, to be issued at 79. The remainder of the loan will doubtless be reserved for the other Italian States. There is a rumour of the probable resignation of Count Cavour.

Garibaldi, who defended Rome in 1848, arrived in Genoa on the 1st from Caprera, and set out again immediately for Turin.

At Milan arrests continue to take place; discontent is general; and complete stagnation prevails in business of every kind. At Pavia a daily-increasing activity is exhibited in fortifying the place. The "Opinione" of Turin states that this city is destined to be the centre of a large portion of the army of operation.

At the Faglano Theatre, Florence, while a performance was going on for the benefit of the *prima donna*, a shower of printed puppets suddenly fell upon the pit. People fancied that they were about to read a sonnet in honour of the lady—such sort of distribution being very customary—but their surprise was great at finding in their hands the following political manifesto:—

"Turin, Feb. 15.

"Brothers of Tuscany,—From this land, to which God has confided the sacred depot of Italian liberty; from this land, which, through so many sacrifices, has found means to construct a sublime seat of national council, a war cry will soon go forth. This cry will be for you a signal of resurrection. But woe be to you if you give way to untimely manifestations and useless and hazardous enterprises. Be ready, vigilant, and faithful; and when we come to you with the tri-coloured flag, then fly to the arms of your brethren, and the defence of Italian liberty."

### SWITZERLAND.

THE Federal Council discussed in its sitting of March 5, the state of political affairs, and unanimously decided upon defending and upholding, by every means in its power, the integrity and neutrality of the Swiss territory. Besides the above, a resolution was voted to extend measures for defending the country in case of need, and in accordance with the treaties, to such part of Savoy as might be found necessary in order to maintain the neutrality and integrity of Switzerland. Communications relating to these resolutions are to be addressed to the different European Governments. The Treaty of Vienna has a paragraph which declares the northern part of Savoy neutral territory; and the road for the French to the Mont Cenis runs through this neutral piece of ground.

### TURKEY AND THE EAST.

ACCORDING to a telegram from Constantinople, Sussib Pacha has been appointed Minister of Finance, replacing Saffetti Pacha. Sami Pacha is appointed Ambassador to Paris.

The Wallachian deputation had arrived at Constantinople. Two corps d'armée, consisting together of 20,000 men, have been concentrated at Sophia Nissa.

Agitators are at work in Bulgaria, Bosnia, Albania, and Herzegovina, and emissaries were inciting the cultivators not to pay the tenth to the Government.

A Russian corps of 60,000 men is said to be ready to action the Pruth; meant to support the union of the Principalities under Cossack rule.



## AMERICA.

The news from America is generally unimportant. The committee in the House of Representatives on the tariff question had decided against any change in the tariff, and in favour of re-issue of notes. In the Senate, the bill providing for the occupation of Cuba continues to be discussed.

## IONIA.

Mr. Gladstone's return to England was preceded by the news that the Ionian Parliament and the new Lord High Commissioner had been exchanging sentiments. Mr. Gladstone's proposals of reform have been replied to by the Assembly, which declares the proffered reforms inadmissible.

Sharing the general sentiment of the Ionian people, the Assembly replies with the deepest regret the answer returned to the address submitted by the protecting Sovereign. While basing its claims on justice, the Assembly awaits the solution of the question, and nourishes a cheerful hope that a benevolent disposition on the part of her Britannic Majesty will hasten the realisation of the ardent desires of the Ionians. The Assembly is conscientiously convinced that on this most grave and important occasion it has performed a sacred duty; and it trusts that the British nation, which is so firmly attached to its own liberty and independence, will value as they deserve the proceedings of the representatives of the Ionian people."

It had become the duty of Sir H. Storks, the new Commissioner, to answer this reply. He regrets that the reforms are refused, declares he cannot suffer the question to be re-opened, casts all the responsibility of what may happen upon the Parliament, and intimates that he will do his duty.

The Lord High Commissioner has announced to the deputies his intention of making a journey of inspection through the islands.

## INDIA.

By letters dated February 9, we learn that the rebels who had taken refuge in Nepal were dispirited and disorganised, and that they were without provisions or supplies of any kind. The combined armies of the Begum, the Nana, and Beni Madho, amount to about 12,000 men of all arms. They occupied a position across the Nepal frontier, not very far from Bankee, the scene of their last defeat. Jung Bahadur no sooner heard that they had entered his territories, than he issued a proclamation to the effect that all murderers and rebels in arms who crossed the Nepal border were to be given up to the British government, and that all large armed bodies would be destroyed. The Gorkha army was at once moved downward, in the direction of the rebel position, and an application forwarded to Lord Clyde for troops to co-operate with the army of Nepal. Brigadier Horsford was ordered upon this duty, and his brigade had already crossed the Raptree to join the Gorkha army.

In Oude effective measures are being adopted for the disarming of the people; and up to the middle of January we had destroyed 483 fets, and about 1,800 speys had come in under the amnesty. The whole of the Sikh regiments have been ordered back to the Punjab. An order was also lately issued in Lucknow, commanding every Afghan, affecting to be a trader, to sell his goods within a certain time, and then to return from whence he came. This order was promulgated in consequence of the number of Afghan merchants who have lately swarmed into the city. The Oude army has been diminished by more than one third. It has been reduced from a total strength of 35 regiments of infantry, 11 of cavalry, 28 companies or loops of artillery, and 5 of sappers, to 20 regiments of foot, 8 of cavalry, 17 of artillery, and 3 of sappers. The principal portion of the diminished army will be stationed at Lucknow. Setapore, Ghoreekpoor, Fyzabad, Roy Bareilly, Ghazepoor, and Tooleepoor, are all to be garrisoned by strong bodies of British troops. A number of regiments have been ordered home, amongst which are the 9th Lancers and Maude's battery.

Lord Clyde continued indisposed at Lucknow. Lord Canning had returned to Calcutta; but, before leaving Allahabad, he thanked Lord Clyde and his army for their brilliant services in Oude.

Tantia Topce and Feroze Shah were still at large in Rajpootana, but their combined force was dispersed and divided. After their defeat by Brigadier Showers at Boosa, they took the direction of Ulwur, one of the most wealthy cities of those parts. They were, however, unable to effect an entrance into the city. Feroze Shah in vain pinned a proclamation on the gates of Ulwur, declaring himself to be heir to the dignities and titles of the descendants of Timour. The Ulwur Contingent, not believed to be particularly loyal, gave him no assistance, and he was forced to sheer off with his colleagues to the northwards towards Rewaree. But on learning that Major Redmond was marching to intercept him, he abandoned his designs upon Rewaree, and proceeded westward in the direction of Narnool. Redmond followed them, and reached Jahajehapore, midway between Narnool and Rewaree, on the 17th of January. The rebels, pressed by this advance, as well as by the pursuit of Holmes's brigade from the southward, went by Narnool and made for a pass across the hills into the Shekawatee district by Oodeypoor, and from thence proceeded north-westward to Raughur, with the intention of plundering it. On the 31st they were again very nearly caught by Brigadier Holmes. This officer, after marching 294 miles in 12 days, and 52 miles in 48 hours, came up with Tantia on the morning of the 21st of January at Sekur. An engagement at once ensued, but the enemy refused to stand, and again sought safety in flight. Forty or fifty rebels were killed, and a number of horses and arms fell into our hands. On the 23rd of January Tantia was heard of at Kootchawurr, still further south-west, and a little to the north of the Sambar Lake, with the intention, it was thought, of making his way to Komulmair and Oodeypoor, through the Mairta district, *et cetera* Palice and Awah. Brigadier Holmes remained close at the heels of the rebels; and Brigadier Park was in a favourable position to interpose between Tantia and Joudhpore.

The Nizam's dominions still remained agitated, but no important operations had taken place. The Rohillas, however, continued threatening; and, it is said, have seized several strongholds, from which they will have to be dislodged by a siege train. Sir Hugh Rose was to command in the Dekkan, and proposed to open operations on rather an extensive scale.

The caste disturbances in the Madras Presidency, springing, as is alleged, out of a faulty translation of his Majesty's proclamation, still continue. The facts of the Tinnevely riot have received no further elucidation; but in Travancore the most serious outrages have been perpetrated by the Soodras upon the native Christians of that province. The disturbances that have occurred have been as yet chiefly in the southern part of Travancore. The population is composed mainly of two classes, the "Soodras" (Nairs) and the "Shaners." The former are the chief landowners, and monopolise nearly all offices under the State, to none of which is a Shanar, however intelligent, ever admitted. In Southern India it is the custom of low caste females to go unclothed from the waist upwards, and the Soodras have thought themselves justified, under the terms of the recent proclamation, in attempting to force Christian women of the Shanar caste to conform to the general practice. The attempt was resisted, under the advice of the missionaries, and the consequence is that many of the mission chapels have been burnt down, and an attempt made to strip Shanar women in public. The Resident's bungalow at Nagercoil, some houses of Shanars at Tittoovilly, north of Nagercoil, amongst others that of the Resident's gardener, have also been burnt. But the worst affair that has happened is the burning down of between 70 and 80 houses, inhabited by Roman Catholics, at Kotar, near Nagercoil. A woman and her child are said to have perished in the flames.

The "SATURDAY REVIEW" thinks "there is no reason to fear that any French Government will proceed to extremities with a potentate who can at any moment bring the whole influence of the Church to the aid of Austria. The zealous Catholics in France itself are an active and formidable minority; and it is only in consequence of the orthodox professions and acts of the Emperor that the priests have given him their support."

## THE "MONITEUR" ON THE WAR.

Two articles, which appeared in the "Moniteur" last week, have greatly relieved the minds, whatever their effect may be on those who know how to weigh facts against words, or who have studied the diplomacies of Napoleon III. But these articles are important, whatever they may mean, or whatever they may be meant to hide, and we reprint them.

First, we learn that we are to pay no attention to the threatening articles which now and then appear in certain French journals, over which the Government has no control!

"Public opinion in foreign countries does not clearly understand the present regime of the press in France. The belief appears to prevail too generally that the journals are subjected to a previous censorship, and thus an importance is ascribed to them which is unfounded. The administration, it ought to be known, has no preventive action as regards the press. The public should, therefore, be on its guard against the inductions founded on the language of the journals. Whenever a grave question presents itself, or an important act is accomplished, the Government addresses itself directly to the nation through the official journal. That is a duty which it has always imposed on itself, and which it will accomplish the more scrupulously under present circumstances, as public opinion is now more than ever taken unawares and misled."

Then the official journal explains the motives of the Emperor, which are strictly honourable—

"The state of things in Italy, although of old date, has in these latter times assumed in the eyes of all a character of gravity which has naturally struck the mind of the Emperor; for the chief of a great power like France cannot isolate himself from questions which interest European order. Animated by a spirit of prudence which it would have been culpable not to have possessed, he directs his attention in the most loyal manner to the reasonable and equitable solution of these delicate and difficult problems."

"The Emperor has nothing to disguise, nothing to disavow, either in the objects of his anxious deliberation or in his alliances. French interest guides his policy, and justifies his vigilance."

"In presence of the disquietudes—we are glad to say unfounded—which have agitated public opinion in Piedmont, the Emperor has promised the King of Sardinia to defend him against any aggressive act on the part of Austria. He has promised nothing more, and it is well known that he keeps his word. Is this to be considered as a dream of war? Is it not more in conformity with the rules of prudence to foresee difficulties, more or less near, and to weigh all their consequences?"

"We have just indicated what are the real thoughts, duties, and tendencies of the Emperor; and all that the exaggerations of the press have added thereto is pure imagination, falsehood, and delirium."

"France, it is asserted, is making considerable warlike preparations. This is a completely gratuitous imputation. The regular effective force of the peace footing, adopted two years ago by the Emperor, has not been exceeded. The artillery is purchasing 4,000 horses to attain the regimental limits. The infantry regiments are 2,000 strong, and the regiments of cavalry 900. It is affirmed, also, that the French arsenals are displaying extraordinary activity. But it is forgotten that we have to change all our artillery—Horses and all? We must presume so, since 4,000 horses have just been bought for artillery service—and to transform our entire fleet. This last undertaking, long since decided on in order to give our fleet its normal strength, is sanctioned by the annual votes of the Legislative Body; and, notwithstanding the most praiseworthy activity, several years will be necessary to complete the operation."

"Lastly, uneasiness is felt at the preparations in our navy. All these preparations, however, consist in fitting out four frigates for the conveyance of troops from France to Algeria and from Algeria to France; and four screw transports destined to provide for different eventualities, especially for the service of Civita Vecchia, and for the re-victualling, by way of Alexandria, of our expedition in Cochin China."

"Such are the facts, and they should fully re-assure sincere men as to the projects ascribed to the Emperor, and lead them to treat as they deserve the allegations of those who are interested in casting doubts on the most unobjectionable measures, and clouding the clearest situations. Is it not time to ask when these vague and absurd rumours, spread by the press from one end of Europe to the other, will end—rumours representing everywhere to public credulity the Emperor of the French as exciting to war, and throwing on him alone the responsibility of the disquietudes and warlike preparations of Europe?"

"Who can have a right to mislead public opinion so shamefully—to alarm interests so gratuitously? Where are the words—where the diplomatic notes—where the acts which indicate a desire to excite war for the passions which it satisfies, or for the glory which it procures? Who has seen the soldiers—has counted the pieces of cannon—estimated the supplies which are said to have been added with so much cost and haste to the ordinary state of a peace footing in France? Where are the extraordinary levies, the anticipated calling out of soldiers? [Where are the regiments that were recalled from Algeria?] On what day were recalled to service the men now absent on renewable furloughs? Who, in short, can show the elements, however slight they may be, of the general accusations which malevolence invents, which credulity hawks about, and which stupidity accepts?"

"No doubt, as we have said, the Emperor watches over the various causes of complication which may appear on the horizon. It is the duty of all prudent policy to endeavour to conjure away the events, or questions, which are of a nature to trouble that order without which there is neither peace nor commerce. It is not a respite which real business (veritables affaires) requires; it is security and a safe future."

"Such foresight is neither agitation nor provocation. To study questions is not to create them; and to divert attention from them would be neither to suppress nor solve them. Besides, a diplomatic examination of these questions has been commenced; and nothing warrants the belief that the issue will be unfavourable to the consolidation of public peace."

## THE SENTIMENTS OF NAPOLEON III.

SIR FRANCIS HEAD recently addressed some letters to the "Times," in which he defended the character and policy of the present Emperor of the French. These letters Sir Francis afterwards cut from the columns of the "Times," and submitted for his Majesty's perusal. His Majesty not only deigned to read them, but sent the author a letter in reply, so full of "calm, magnanimous sentiments towards England," that Sir Francis cannot refrain from setting it before the world. It was as follows:—

"My dear Sir Francis,—I thank you for having collected together, in order to send them direct to me, the different articles which you have had inserted in the English journals, for you thus give me an opportunity of expressing to you all my gratitude for the sentiments of which you have not feared the spontaneous manifestation in my favour. I have seen in them, and I am much touched by it, a new proof that my old friends in England have not forgotten me, and that they know how much I always preserve for the English people the esteem and the sympathy which I felt during my exile in the midst of them. Even in writing to you to-day I detect myself in recollecting as a happy time the epoch when, proscribed, I saw you in England. It is that in changing one's destiny one only changes one's joys and sorrows. Formerly the afflictions of exile alone appeared to me; to-day I see plainly the cares of power, and one of the greatest of them around me is, without doubt, to find one's self misunderstood and misjudged by those whom one values the most, and with whom one desires to live upon good terms (vivre en bonne intelligence)."

"Thus (ainsi) I consider it very natural that the parties whom it has been my duty to oppose and to repress should bear me ill-will, and should seek the means to injure me; but that the English, of whom I have always been the most devoted and the most faithful ally, should attack me incessantly in the journals in the most unworthy and the most unjust manner, is what I cannot comprehend; for, in truth (de bonne foi) I cannot discover any interest they can have in exciting the public mind against France. If, in my own country, I choose to act in this manner, it would be impossible for me afterwards to restrain the passions which I should have let loose (délanchées)."

"I have always entertained a great admiration for the liberties of the English people; but I regret deeply that liberty, like all good things, should also have its excess. Why is it that, instead of making truth known, it uses every effort to obscure it? Why is it that, instead of encouraging and developing generous sentiments, it propagates mistrust and hatred?"

"I am happy, then, amongst all these manoeuvres of falsehood (mensonge) to have found a defender, who, guided by the sole love of truth, has not hesitated energetically to oppose to them his loyal and disinterested voice."

"Believe, my dear Sir Francis, in my sentiments of friendship."

"NAPOLEON."  
"Ah," says Sir Francis Head, "if the English press, in accordance with the desire of the British nation, would but accept, instead of repudiate, the hand of friendship which the Emperor Napoleon III., now at the head of half a million of soldiers, has unceasingly extended towards England since his election by the French people, the combined power, energy, and wealth of both countries would be enabled to insure to Europe the inestimable blessings of 'that peace which passeth all understanding.'"

## IRELAND.

TIPPERARY IN 1839.—A local paper, the "Examiner," remarks:—"The calendar for the great South Riding of Tipperary contains the enormous number of sixteen names! Of which six are charged with larceny, one with obtaining fish under false pretences, one with intent to steal, three with sheep-stealing, three with felonious assault, one with shooting at, and one with manslaughter. There is a fearful state of crime and anarchy for you! There is a proof that no man's life is safe!"

WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF SHEEP AT GWICK.—The destruction of sheep has been resumed at Gweek. A hundred and sixty-five sheep, the property of a Mr. Hunter, were lately taken off the mountains. After several days' search for them, the police found a large quantity of skins, entrails, and wool, on the mountains of Gweek and Conquingny. The first discovery was made in a deep hole on the mountain, at least a mile and a half from any house. A systematic mode of sheep-killing appears to be pursued: the sheep are driven into swamps, surrounded, and struck with sticks thrown at them.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION IN IRELAND.—A dastardly attempt has been made upon the life of Mr. Foreman, an English gentleman living at Kicketown, county Galway. Mr. Foreman was sitting in his parlour one evening last week, the window shutters being open, when a shot was fired through the window which shattered a glass which one of his children was in the act of handing to him in her hand. The wall was riddled with shots. Mr. Foreman and some of his neighbours have been frequently at law regarding the right of pass over a bog.

## THE PROVINCES.

DARING BURGLARY.—Four men, with blackened faces, broke into the dwelling-house of a Mr. Matthews, a farmer of Great Bentley, last week. Mr. Matthews, who is nearly eighty years of age, and bed-ridden, his wife, also an aged woman, and the maid-servant, were held down in bed by two of the burglars, while the others searched the house. They succeeded in finding a small red-box, in the clock case, containing £150 in gold, and several notes and cheques, an old silver watch, a ham, and some bottles of home-made wine; with these they decamped. Next day three labourers of Great Bentley, Richard White, his brother James, and Edward Jessiman, two of whom have been convicted of felony, were apprehended, and recognised by Mrs. Matthews. The money has not yet been discovered, and it is suspected that the thieves have buried it.

RESPECT TO MR. TURNER, M.P., AT MANCHESTER.—This long-talked-of affair came off on Friday evening, in the Free Trade Hall. Mr. Oliver Heywood presided. After the usual loyal toasts had been given, the "Memory of the late Sir John Potter" was drunk in solemn silence, followed by a dirge on the organ. An address was then presented to Mr. Turner, who replied at great length. He expressed his opinion that the Government Reform Bill will need great modifications; the question had better be set at rest properly at once. Resolutions were then moved, in favour of a foreign policy preservative of peace; abstention from intervention in the affairs of other nations; the maintenance of our national power; a home policy seeking to improve the administration of existing laws and institutions; the removal of restrictions on trade and commerce; the extension of education; the promotion of the social well-being of the people; and constitutional reform, as carrying out the principles of the Act of 1832, in accordance with the advanced wealth and intelligence of the country, but not in the manner proposed by Mr. Bright.

INCENDIARY FIRES.—The country papers contain numerous accounts of fires which can only have been caused by incendiaries. Some stacks in a farmyard at Millbourne, near Hailston, were fired on Saturday evening, though watched with great care. A stable-stack burnt rapidly, and the flames soon extended to other stacks and the outbuildings. Portions of the ignited material were blown across the river, setting fire to five cottages. At East Norton, six miles off, the inhabitants could see plainly by the light of the flames the people clustered about the burning houses. The fire raged for upwards of six hours. Seven cottages were totally destroyed, and many families rendered homeless.

CHARGE OF ROASTING A MAN TO DEATH.—John Buchanan, chief engineer of the screw steamer Bogota, was charged, at Liverpool, with causing the death of a stoker (Thomas Launder), by having him tied to a ladder in front of the furnace on board the above vessel. It appeared that Launder had disobeyed some orders, and when about five hours' sail from Rio, the prisoner instructed the second engineer to tie Launder to an iron ladder in front of the furnace. The heat was fearful, and in half an hour Launder died (as the doctor on board said) of apoplexy. His body was thrown overboard without removing the clothes, and before the doctor had examined it. The case was remanded.

THE MURDER NEAR NOTTINGHAM.—George Murphy has been committed at Nottingham for the murder of Mr. Woodcock, at Bulwell, Notts, a few weeks ago. Several witnesses were examined, and he was identified as a man who bore the appellation of "Scrimshaw Muff," who was drinking with a man named West, on the afternoon preceding the murder. The latter was apprehended at the time on suspicion, but afterwards discharged. The prisoner reserved his defence.

A MILLIONAIRE.—A remarkable case was disposed of at Ipswich Quarter Sessions, on Friday. A person named Neville Allen was charged with obtaining money from various persons under the pretence that he was concerned in a litigation "Allen v. Allen," referring to vast estates in the West Indies and £2,000,000 or £3,000,000 in the funds. His plan was to direct his victims to a report of a case "Allen v. Allen," at Vice-Chancellor Wood's Chambers, and to state that his solicitor was pressing him for money to carry on the proceedings. In this manner the fellow succeeded in swindling three persons, one of them in humble life, of £9, £35, and £60 respectively. The prisoner pleaded guilty, when arraigned, to the whole of the charges brought against him, and was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

COLONEL SLEIGH IN RUSSIA.—A St. Petersburg letter says:—"An Englishman, Colonel Sleigh, is at present here, and proposes to undertake the construction of a railway for India, without receiving any guarantee from the State. This project excites considerable interest in the commercial circles here. The River Amour Company has had an estimate drawn out of the expense of establishing an electric telegraph which will cross the whole of Eastern Russia and Siberia, and end at the Pacific."

THE REV. N. BRYAN, Protestant incumbent of Kilkenny West, having intimated that he was about to leave the parish, the whole Catholic population signed a memorial, begging him to relinquish the intention. "Your memorialists most humbly pray that you will remain with us, and not take a step which would be heartrending to us."

A CONSIDERATE CLERGYMAN.—The Rev. E. L. Ward, rector of Blendworth, Hordern, Hants, announces that he is using a special form of prayer on behalf of the Prince of Wales to shield him from the influences of Rome. Mr. Ward says:—"Feeling deeply the extreme imprudence of which Lord Derby has been guilty, in permitting the Prince of Wales to visit and reside for a time at Rome (for I consider such a step fraught with peril to the cause of Protestant truth), I have made this visit of his Royal Highness to Rome a subject of prayer in my church for the last three Sundays, in the following manner before the Litany and before the Collect for the Royal family in the afternoon service:—'The prayers of this congregation are earnestly desired for his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, that it may please Almighty God of His great mercy to preserve him from the dangers to which he will be exposed during his residence at Rome, the headquarters of Popish error, superstition, and idolatry!'"

## THE CARNIVAL AT ROME.

It is in Italy that the Carnival received its birth, descended in a straight line from the Saturnalia, Bacchanals, Lupercals, and other feasts, which Christianity has superseded, without being able to set aside. As the Roman church has failed in abolishing these rooted customs, she tolerates, without, however, recognising them. She considers, we suppose, that, before submitting to the rigorous fasting of Lent, the flesh demands some satisfaction for the trials it is about to enter upon. It is in that country on which the Pontifical Government sheds its rays, and where the most strictly-observed abstinence requires some counter-balance, that the Carnival revels in all its follies.

At Rome everybody wears some kind of disguise; the face, however, remains unmasked. Carriages, filled with persons in fanciful costumes, promenade the length of the Corso. All classes mingle on an equality—for the time; the lowest of the low are authorised, on this occasion, to present bouquets and sweets to the most haughty dames. This year there are crowds of foreigners in Rome, and the Carnival has been as brilliant as on any previous occasion—the windows are as gaily decorated and filled with as much beauty, the maskers as active in throwing confetti and bouquets; perhaps the only difference is that there is a larger military force under arms, but as it is not visible unless one seeks it out, it creates no uneasy sensations. The Prince of Wales was at a window in the Corso, and was an object of great attraction.





THE CARNIVAL AT ROME. FROM A SKETCH BY M. GIMIZZI-FRANCI.





THE POPE AT ST. PETER'S.



## THE POPE AT ST. PETER'S.

WITHIN Rome's great temple, supported against the last pillar on the right-hand side of the nave, is a statue of the Apostle Peter, surmounting a pedestal four or five feet high. His right hand is raised in the act of priestly benediction, while the left grasps the well-known symbols of the Romish power—two massive keys; the head wears the stolid expression peculiar to the early ages of ancient classic art; while the whole statue, though of bronze, has the appearance of old rusty iron. To Roman Catholics, of all countries, it is the chief object of veneration in the cathedral; none pass it by without some movement of reverence, while the more rigid devotees kiss the toe of the exposed foot several times, pressing their foreheads against it after each salutation, and passing their hands affectionately over it. Others, prostrating themselves in front of the statue, engage in prayer. The homage of kissing the foot of the statue has been frequently rendered by the Pope himself. Our artist has given an admirable delineation of this scene. Cardinals and other dignitaries of the church are shown standing around during the ceremony, in which the emblems of clerical authority and military power are mingled, as usual, in strange contrast. French antiquarians assert that this alleged statue of the poor Fisherman of Galilee was cast by order of Pope Leo X., from materials furnished by an ancient bronze statue of Jupiter Capitolinus, while others maintain that it is the identical image, slightly altered, which the old Romans adored.

To show that this is at least possible, we may mention that an ancient Roman *bas-relief*, a copy of which is appended to the accompanying picture, represents a scene in which a female is in the act of devoutly kissing the extended foot of an image of Jupiter, while behind her are two persons bearing censors in their hands.

The honours paid to the sainted bronze of St. Peter's endow the lasting integrity of at least one portion of the statue. The venerated foot has become, from the worship it is constantly receiving, much worn, and shines like silver. Some, indeed, assert that it is the third foot made for the image, in consequence of the wearing away of the two former, recalling to mind the words of Cicero, in his description of a statue of Hercules at Argemum:—"That his mouth and chin were somewhat worn, because, in their prayers and thank-givings they were accustomed not only to worship, but to kiss them."

## BAPTISM OF THE INFANT PRINCE AT BERLIN.

The christening of the infant prince, son of the Prince and Princess Frederick-William of Prussia, was celebrated on Saturday. Dr. Strauss, principal court chaplain, assisted by several other clergymen, officiated. The young prince received the names of Frederick-William-Victor-Albert. The following personages were present:—Prince Regent of Prussia, and the Princess of Prussia; the Prince and Princess Charles of Prussia; the Prince and Princess Frederick-Charles of Prussia; the Princes Albrecht, father and son, Alexander-George and Adalbert of Prussia; the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the hereditary Grand Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Prince Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen.

The Prussian "Gazette" also gives a list of those who were absent, rather significantly. Among them we find the King and Queen of Prussia, the Queen of Great Britain and the Prince Consort, the Emperor and the Empress Dowager of Russia, the King of Hanover and the King of the Belgians, the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Kent, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Cambridge, &c.

A letter from the Prussian capital gives us a few additional particulars. The Prince Regent, it appears, held the infant prince at the baptismal font; and the young mother, the Princess Frederick-William, was a witness of the ceremony from an apartment the doors of which open into the chapel. When the baptism was over, the grand mistress of the household, Countess Perponcher, took the child to its mother, and all the company followed to present their congratulations to her Royal Highness. The streets were dressed with flags and garlands, and at night the entire city was illuminated. Some of the streets presented a magnificent appearance.

We have received from our artist in Berlin, who was present at the ceremony, a sketch of it; which we shall place before our readers next week.

## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 90.

## MR. COX TO THE RESCUE.

THE time is half an hour after midnight. The scene is the House of Commons. The principal performer is Mr. Cox, the member for Finsbury, and the subject of the play is "The Abolition of certain Manorial Courts in Ireland." In the sister country, it appears, there are still left some old courts for the recovery of small debts, which had their origin in feudal times. They are presided over by officers called seneschals, who are appointed by the lords of the manor, and their mode of transacting business in some cases is of a very primitive character. The court sits in an ale-house, and there the case is heard and decided, but not "upon the merits," for they are but little considered. The plan is a very simple one, and let us hope unique. It is this: He gains the verdict who gives the most beer—"plaintiff, a pint of beer; defendant, a quart. Verdict for the defendant," or *vice versa*. And the verdict is recorded. The Attorney-General for Ireland has this session brought in a bill to abolish these scandalous courts. The bill met with a good deal of opposition, both on its first and its second reading. Every Irish bill does have to encounter opposition, whatever it may be. If you were to bring in a bill to make every Irishman rich at no cost to anybody, it would be opposed. Your Irishman from old and at all times has loved opposition; whether it be at Donnybrook Fair or in the House of Commons, he will fight—if not for the right, then for the wrong, and if neither right nor wrong be in question, then for nothing, "but fight he will." "He is never at peace but when he is at war." Well, on this occasion the bill was down for committee, and it was hoped that the fighting propensity had been sufficiently satisfied at the two former stages of the bill, and that it would now run through committee without opposition. And this would probably have been the case, but for an unexpected auxiliary to the opposition. Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald, late Attorney-General, was there, Mr. O'Brien, and other Irishmen, but they really seemed that night to be in an unwanted pacific mood. Mr. Fitzroy was in the chair. The first clause had been put, and was about to be carried, when there arose a cry of "Cox to the rescue," and up rose the Honourable Member for Finsbury to denounce the bill, and to stop it "further progress at that late hour of the night." His ground for opposition was some trifling cost to the Treasury to be incurred to compensate the seneschals. He proposed that these men should be suffered to die off. For twenty minutes the Hon. Gentleman addressed the House with a passion and energy strangely unsuitable to the occasion, for the postponement of this simple act of justice to Ireland; and then moved that "the chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again." The ice was now broken—a row had begun—and of course every Irishman must join in the scrimmage. When Mr. Cox sat down, the late Attorney-General arose and "took up the wondrous tale," and after him Mr. Spaight, and Mr. Patrick O'Brien, and Mr. Macarthy. English members also became excited, and joined in the row. Mr. John Locke, of Southwark, backed Mr. Cox; and even the placid Mr. Pease, the only genuine Quaker in the House, was "moved." But of course it all came to nothing. The committee divided—the motion was defeated by a majority of 95 to 6, the business went on, and the bill was carried through its stage. But we lost an hour by this move of Mr. Cox. The privilege of moving adjournments is a very valuable one, but it ought to be exercised judiciously, or it becomes mischievous. It is good to have a giant's strength, but

for Finsbury if any one were to suggest that it should continue its functions for years to come, until the "judge" should die! Mr. Cox is a valorous little man—can speak fluently—and might be useful, but he lacks discretion, which is the better part of valour. All he did on this occasion was to keep some 100 weary gentlemen out of their beds for an hour. We have often been asked what the House does after midnight, for the reports give no adequate notion. Here, then, is a peep into the House's employment.

## CONFUSION WORSE CONFOUNDED.

Carlyle, in that wonderful epic poem of his, entitled "The French Revolution: a History," describes that great event in one of its phases, as "a wreckage of all old authorities," and then he introduces one of his grand figures to explain and illustrate his meaning. "As in a dry sabara," he says, "when the winds waken, and lift and winnow the immensity of sand, the air itself (travellers say) is a dim sand air; and dim looming through it the wonderfullest colonnades of sand-pillars rush whirling from this side and from that, like so many mad-spinning dervishes." Now, if we may compare small things with great, this is not a bad picture of the House of Commons at the present moment. Here, also, is a "wreckage of all old authorities." Time was, and not long ago, when the House was divided into two parties, each having its leaders and authorities, to whom every member was more or less attached by party ties. But all these "old authorities" are now wrecked and dethroned, especially on the Opposition side of the House. Here there is literally no king; indeed, it appears as if the Liberal party were agreed upon only one subject—bound only by one determination, namely, to have done with leaders. "Nous le jurons: plus de roi," was the oath taken by the legislative body of France; and something of the sort seems to pervade the Opposition side of the House, and every man appears inwardly to have sworn to have done with leaders. We hear of Palmerston and his followers—and Lord John and his followers—and Mr. Bright and his; but we doubt whether these gentlemen have any really reliable followers, and such loyal followers as the old parliamentary chiefs used to have, certainly they have not. In fact, the members seem to be performing such a "sabara waltz," as was never performed in the House before. Mr. A. for instance, like Lord Palmerston, is hesitating whether he should or should not support the bill, but he hesitates still more to do anything which might place the Noble Lord in power; Mr. B. is inclined the same way, but does not like to take a step which might throw the cards into the hands of Lord John; C. is well-disposed to Lord John, but rather likes the bill because it is "moderate"; D. is a Radical of the first water, but cannot go with Bright because that gentleman proposes to disfranchise his borough; E. is a Radical also, but stands in doubt of Bright, because he stops short of manhood suffrage, &c.; and so on through the whole of the alphabet. Every man seems to be spinning on his own axis, and gravitating to no centre but that. Nor does it seem possible at present that all this disorder and confusion can by any means that can be devised be got to resolve itself into anything like permanent order.

## THE DUMB ORACLE.

Much would be done if the *vox populi* below would but speak with anything like a certain sound; but, provokingly enough, it won't. We are all anxiously listening for the voice of the oracle, but as yet it is dumb, or only mutters a dull, uncertain, confused response. In 1831-32 there was no mistake. The voice was then loud and definite; and the cry of "The bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill," came upon the four winds of heaven in sonorous tones, which no one could fail to comprehend; but it is clearly not so now, and honourable members are perplexed beyond all precedent. How is it that the people are so unmoved? During the French Revolution, one Peter Baille reported from a certain province:—"Tout va bien ici; la pain manque"—"All goes on well here; food is not to be had." Is the contrary true now in our provinces? Perhaps it is. And, in answer to the principals in town, our perambulating stump-orators have to report:—"All goes on bad here; food is plentiful." For we know that agitation sickens upon plenty, and lives and thrives upon famine. In actual war, it is said, Englishmen fight best with full stomachs; but in politics, we apprehend, they fight best when they are hungry. We remember hearing an anecdote from the lips of "old Byng," so long the father of the House, which is german to this matter. He was then over eighty years of age; a tall, fine old gentleman, dressed in long-backed blue coat, ornamented with brass buttons, a buff double-breasted waistcoat, disclosing at top an ample shirt frill, and drab breeches and gaiters:—"I once went down to a stupid county town," said the old gentleman, "with Holland and Whitbread, to attend a public meeting got up to petition for the removal of the Ministry. As the county had been profusely placarded, and our agent knew when we were to arrive, we expected to be met at the entrance of the town and drawn to the shire-hall in triumph; but we were woefully disappointed, for not a soul was there. As we passed through the town, it was dull and sleepy as ever; and at the hall, though there was a crowd present, we could not move it to the faintest cheer. Holland spoke, and I spoke, and Whitbread; but still all were silent, though we drew pictures of ministerial delinquencies which ought to have made the stones cry out. At last Whitbread, provoked at this stupidity, cried out, at the top of his voice, 'If you don't get rid of these fellows, they will tax your bread—it will soon rise to half-a-crown the quarter loaf—and your children will starve!' The ice was broken; the people cheered immensely; the petition was carried with enthusiasm; and we were drawn out of the town in triumph."

## STORM COMING.

On Monday night there was an uncommon excitement in the House, or rather about the House—in the lobbies, the library, &c. A startling paragraph had appeared in the "Times" that morning, announcing that the "old Whig leaders" had made it up, that a resolution had been framed that would please all the political parties on the Opposition side, resolve them again into order, and bring them back under command of the old leaders for a time. This resolution, it was said, was to be moved on the second reading of the bill by Lord John Russell, and it was privately reported that Lord John would appear in his place on that very night, and give notice of his motion. This was the talk of the clubs and coteries all the morning, and, at an early hour, members began to gather in knots to discuss the probabilities and possibilities of the future. Some said the report was true, others vehemently denied it. Some applauded the move, others denounced it as an unwarrantable step for the old Whig leaders to take without consulting "the party." Meanwhile, all became anxious for the appearance of Lord John. But in due time it was discovered that this anxiety was to be disappointed, for Lord John's father-in-law, Lord Minto, was dangerously ill, and his Lordship was obliged to sacrifice for a night, if not for a longer period, his public duty on the domestic altar. For an hour or two, the most contradictory reports flew about in all directions; but after awhile, it seemed to be settled that the report in the "Times" was not strictly correct, though something had occurred which did really foreshadow united action—a certain defeat of the Government and immediate overthrow or a dissolution, and these contingencies and probabilities were eagerly discussed, and not a few bets were laid of new hats, bottles of wine, and dinners, upon the result.

## HAYTER ON THE WING.

For the last twelve months this "ominous bird" has been but little seen. Now and then he has flitted across our vision, and once or twice we have seen him seated by the side of his old chief, but only for a few minutes, just to inquire how matters were going on, &c. &c. The House has been no place for him of late; for Sir William is a sort of drill-sergeant, and what can a drill-sergeant do with the troops all in

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

LORD LYNCHURST called attention to the proposal for removing the Royal Academy from the National Gallery to Burlington House, and the conditions of the removal. Lord Lynchurst said that the Royal Academy, not, as commonly supposed, a collection of private individuals, associated for the advancement of art, but a society established under the sign-mantling of the present residence, not of the nation, but directly of the Crown, and during the consent of the Crown. Their income was derived solely from the annual exhibition, and had averaged for the last ten years a sum of £7,000 a year. These funds were expended in the encouragement of art, in paying professors, and maintaining schools. The removal of the site of the Royal Academy was first mooted about the year 1830, but in 1831 Lord John Russell proposed to allow them £10,000 to provide a new site. This proposal was not well received by the Society, because, having already received money from the public purse, they might be called on by the House of Commons to make returns. After expressing his approbation of the site of Burlington House, which it was proposed, on certain conditions, to grant to the Society, Lord Lynchurst said he thought it was only on condition of their remaining under the sole supervision of the Crown that the bill would be accepted.

LORD DERRY said it was highly desirable that the Royal Academy and the National Gallery should be separated. The present site of Burlington House, part of which it was proposed to assign to them in freehold, had been bought by the country for the sum of £140,000, but it was stipulated that the Academy, out of its own funds, should erect suitable buildings on the site. The demands of the Royal Academy, considering the numerous claims which were daily made on the Government for a share of the site, various societies, were rather large; he thought that the Academy should be content with one-half of it.

## TELEGRAPH SCHEMES.

LORD WODHURST asked whether it was true that the proposal of a company to lay a submarine telegraph between Naples and Malta had been refused by her Majesty's Government; and, if so, why?

LORD DERRY stated, in reply, that the Government would not oppose neither were they prepared to assist, the project for laying down a submarine wire between Malta and Naples. Further, in answer to Lord Wodhurst, the Earl of Derby stated that a guarantee of 8 per cent. had been given to the Atlantic Telegraph Company on a certain portion of the capital, and that the guarantee depended on the successful laying down the cable, and would only remain in force during the successful working of the telegraph.

LORD GRIVY expressed his agreement with the course pursued by Lord Derby's Government in this matter.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH REFORM BILL.

Various questions were addressed to the Government, but none of the gave rise to any discussion, except an inquiry by Mr. C. FORTESCUE as to the intentions of the Government with respect to the Irish Reform Bill, which the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER intimated would be withdrawn until the House should have sanctioned the principle of the bill already introduced.

## THE PRINCIPALITIES.

MR. STAPLETON called attention to the organisation of the Danubian Principalities, in as far as it is affected by the election of Alexander Jol Couza to be Hospodar of Wallachia, he having been previously elected Hospodar of Moldavia. Mr. Stapleton wished to know what course of policy the Government intended to pursue in relation to this question? MR. S. FITZGERALD thought the House must see that it was impossible for him to enter into explanations upon this important question. Having consented to meet our allies in order to consider what ought to be done in the matter, it would be almost an insult to them to state in that House what course this Government proposed to pursue.

After a very few words from Mr. ROXBURGH, this subject dropped.

## THE DEFENCES OF OUR AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

LORD A. CHURCHILL called attention to the inadequate protection at present afforded to the Australian and New Zealand colonies, through the small naval force stationed there; and asked whether it is contemplated to erect a separate naval station for their better defence.

SIR C. NAPIER moved that, as the First Lord of the Admiralty has stated that the Coast-guard ships are comparatively useless, the time is arriving when they ought to be replaced by efficient ships.

After some remarks by Mr. YOUNG,

SIR J. PAKINGTON said he agreed that the Australian colonies had a right to every possible consideration at the hands of the Imperial Government, but he did not admit that their naval protection was inadequate. At all events, the protection was much more efficient now than when he took office. As to the erection of a naval station, since he had been at the Admiralty he had been in communication with the Colonial Governments as to the establishment of a naval store upon an island in the neighbourhood of Sydney. With regard to the motion of Sir C. Napier, Sir P. said he had been misunderstood as to the block ships, which would be replaced in time by efficient ships, and assured him that the attention of the Admiralty was earnestly directed to the state of our naval defences.

MR. BRIGHT protested against a continuance of the system under which the home population were so heavily taxed to provide defences for the colonies.

SIR E. B. LYTON observed, in reply, that all the colonies had done much for themselves, and something for the mother country. Australia, in particular, was a highly profitable dependency of the British crown, and her golden cargoes were well worth defending.

The House ultimately divided upon the amendment moved by Sir Napier, which was negatived by a majority of 74 to 37.

## THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

The House then went into a committee of supply upon the Army Estimates.

General PERL, in moving these estimates, began by explaining certain apparent discrepancies, arising from the sums to be accounted for by the East India Company. The amount to be voted was £11,568,060, against £11,577,755, the amount of the estimates of last year. There was an apparent decrease, he observed, in the number of men, which appeared to be 7,480 less than that of last year—namely, 139,135, whereas the number to be actually voted this year was only 122,655. But there was an increase in the East India establishment, the force of which was this year 196,900. The grand total of her Majesty's land forces was 229,557 men. In the course of his explanations as to the general character of the estimates, General Peel gave some interesting details respecting the improvement in the artillery and Armstrong's guns.

After some discussion, votes granting 122,655 men and £3,724,474 for pay and allowances were agreed to, as also £362,369 for miscellaneous charges and £150,000 for the embodied militia. The vote for £88,000 for the volunteer corps was opposed by Mr. H. Berkeley, who characterised the mounted yeomanry as a useless corps and a mere sham. He recommended the establishment of rifle corps instead. The proposal found favour in the eyes of Sir W. Codrington and Sir W. Williams; but the yeomanry corps was warmly advocated by several members, and the vote was agreed to.

## MONDAY, MARCH 7.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, little of interest occurred, beyond conversation touching the operation of the Vaccination Act. Lord GRANVILLE asked Lord SALISBURY whether any regulations had been issued by the Privy Council with respect to this act. The Marquis of Salisbury replied that the attention of the Government was directed to the subject, and that the officers of the Privy Council were in communication with the registrars throughout the country.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

MR. DEXTER announced that if the Reform Bill reached the stage of committee, he should move amendments by which the £60 required as a vestment in the savings' bank by way of qualification, should be reduced to £40, and the privilege of the franchise granted to the possessors of the amount lodged in any benefit society; that the lodger franchise should be reduced to a minimum of 4s. a week rental, or £10 per annum instead of £20; and the payment of rates and taxes should not be exacted from the elector before he is allowed to record his vote.

## THE INDIAN LOAN.

LORD STANLEY having moved the second reading of the Indian Loan Bill, Sir G. C. LEWIS entered a protest against the home exchequer being made



in the military expenditure of the Indian government, and it was on this point that retrenchments were alone possible, such as might place the revenue and outlay of that country in a satisfactory state of equilibrium.

Mr. BRIGHT apprehended that no permanent improvement could be expected in Indian finance until the whole system of government in that country was remodelled and reformed. The present plans, he contended, comprised only some temporary relief to the real, at the expense of the imperial revenue. No change of any real importance had yet been accomplished, in consequence of the formal assumption of sovereignty in India by the Queen; nor was any real reform to be looked for so long as the minister continued, as at present, surrounded by a council, consisting of men who had grown up under the old system of misgovernment, and who would of necessity oppose and thwart every proposal for fundamental amelioration. Enlarging upon the mismanagement of the Indian administration, the opportunities that had been missed, the resources that were left undeveloped, and the miseries which had in consequence overtaken the inhabitants of that country, the Hon. Member contended that no cure could be discovered for the present chronic state of deficiency and embarrassment until the governmental system was thoroughly improved, and the population of Hindostan rendered so contented and prosperous, that the enormous army, which was now requisite to keep down revolt, could be reduced to the proportions of a mere police force.

Mr. AINSWORTH thought there were reasons for believing that when a system of communication was completed, which would be in a few years, there would be such an increase in the land revenues as would render it quite equal to the charge. The proposition of Sir G. Lewis, that there must be an entire separation between the Indian and the Imperial treasuries, was wrong in principle and impracticable. He recommended the Government of this country to borrow money in this country at 3½ per cent., and to lend it to India at a rate of interest that would insure the repayment of the principal in 15 or 20 years.

Mr. WILSON said that the financial prospects of India were altogether good. Almost every increase of the Indian debt had arisen from wars, and from expenditure upon public works which would be reproductive. If the increased interest upon the Indian debt were taken at £2,000,000, and the expenditure upon public works at £1,000,000, and there should be a deficiency of £3,000,000, he should not despair of seeing in the next three or four years such an increase of the revenue from existing sources as would enable the Government of India to bear the charge.

Lord STANLEY, in a general reply, maintained that the financial prospects of India were not encouraging. Though the debt had increased from time to time, the revenue had expanded in a still larger measure, and this process he expected to see renewed, and the additional liability created by the new loan extinguished by a fresh augmentation in the revenue of the country when tranquillity was restored and the reforms which the Government were maturing had been brought into operation. On the question of responsibility, he fully admitted the principle that the creditors of India had no claim whatever upon the English revenue. These creditors had, however, a first charge on the local revenue, and if the whole Indian income proved insufficient both to pay interest on the debt and defray the expense of defence and administration, a question might in that case arise as to the source whence funds should be supplied to carry on the government of that country.

Sir E. PERRY insisted that every one of the many extensions of territory in Hindostan recently effected had involved a greater increase of expenditure than they had reimbursed in the shape of revenue. The time must come when the finances of that country would be unable to bear the drain, and the home population would have to supply the deficiency.

Mr. C. BAILEY reminded the House that the intimate connection of Indian and English finance had been pointed out by the late Sir R. Peel as long since as 1812. As the Legislature had now assumed complete control over the affairs of India, it was idle, and not quite honest, to attempt to repudiate its liabilities.

The bill was then read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Friday.

SUPPLY.

The report from the committee of supply was brought up and agreed to. The House afterwards went into committee of supply, and proceeded with the votes belonging to the series of army estimates, of which many were agreed to amidst the usual miscellaneous discussion.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8.  
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CHARLES-ST-GEORGES AFFAIR.

Lord WODEHOUSE introduced a debate on this question, by moving for additional papers relating to the Charles-st-Georges seizure. He complained of the incompleteness of the papers that had been presented, and proceeded to argue that the conduct of our Government in the matter had been most censurable. Portugal had maintained throughout her dignity and honour. France, if she had incurred the reproach of having compelled a weaker State by force to yield to her demands, had at least not been deterred by any fear of consequences from pursuing her own course. To England alone remained the discredit of having drawn Portugal into a course of policy by which she came into conflict with a stronger Power, and then abandoning an old and faithful ally.

Lord MALMESBURY thought the Government ought to be judged by the facts which they had at the time, and not by those which became subsequently known to them. When first introduced to the notice of the Government, the case was so full of contradictions, that it was impossible to decide whether Portugal was entirely right, and could justify the measure she had taken. The principle laid down by the French Government, that a vessel with a French agent on board, who is responsible to his Government, is no longer to be treated as a private ship, was in accordance with international law; and he insisted that if such a vessel violated any municipal law, it was not a case for ordinary tribunals, but for diplomacy. The French Government positively agreed to mediation; and if it recoiled from that understanding, that was not a reason for blaming her Majesty's Government. In regard to the advice tendered to the Portuguese Government, Mr. Howard was right; and the treaties which it had been said we had failed to fulfil, had never been appealed to by the Portuguese. His Lordship concluded by saying that he did not regret the course he had pursued, for he was sure it had saved the country and Europe from the most serious consequences.

Lord GRANVILLE said her Majesty's Government had not dealt fairly either with Portugal or France in this matter. France was in the wrong, but she had been much irritated by the conduct of the Portuguese Government. The instructions sent to Lord Cowley were not sufficiently definite; they ought to have been more positive. The Portuguese Government had done, with one exception, what it was their duty to do, and had exhibited as strong a sense of honour as the greatest nation which exists. As to the principle that the presence of a French delegate on board the ship gave an official character to the Charles-st-Georges, he could not agree with it. Altogether, this transaction would leave a most unfavourable impression on the whole of Europe.

Lord KINGSPOW defended the Government.

Lord GREY said the French Government knew well that it was contrary to Portuguese law to export negroes from the Portuguese African possessions; and France had agreed to abandon the system. Subsequently to this, French vessels were detected carrying on the trade; and the Portuguese Governor was warranted in supposing that difficulties might arise, unless they acted with vigour. Under these circumstances the Charles-st-Georges was seized and condemned. He admitted the principle that a ship acting under the authority of a State is not subject to the municipal law of a foreign country; but denied that there was a single despatch in which the French Government puts forward that claim in the case of the Charles-st-Georges. France only asserted that the presence of her agent ought to have exempted the vessel from the suspicion of being engaged in the slave trade. No man had a greater horror of war than himself, but he did not think that the best way of securing peace was to abandon an ally for too faithfully following the advice we gave her; nor did he think so ill of the Emperor of the French as to deem that a firm remonstrance from this country would have produced war. The conduct of the Government in this matter had sensibly lowered this country in the opinion of Europe.

Lord DERNY objected strongly to the view that we had incited Portugal to suppress the slave trade, and had deserted her, when she had exerted herself to follow our counsels. That was not the question. We were obliged to allow the right of France to carry on a traffic which, under the name of free immigration, was inseparably connected with the slave trade. The Government represented to the French Emperor the difficulties likely to arise from this traffic, and the French Government had discontinued it. He denied that any violation of our treaties with Portugal had occurred—that had been allowed by the Portuguese Prime Minister himself. The reason why we had not sooner interfered was that the matter in dispute did not touch this country, as it was a difference between two independent countries, neither of whom asked for our interference; and because they had not furnished us with information on which to form a judgment. The good offices of the Government had been tendered to Portugal immediately that she had applied for them. He rejected the course of action prescribed by Lord Grey, of remonstrating with the French Government before they were convinced that France was in the wrong. He repudiated the notion that we had submitted to an insult or had fallen in the estimation of Europe. The course adopted by her Majesty's Government had convinced France of the unsoundness of the system of free immigration, and this country had come forth with honour to itself and advantage to the interests of Europe.

After a few words from Lords Cranworth, Wensleydale, and St. Germans, Lord Wodehouse withdrew his motion.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CAPTURE OF THE CHARLES-ST-GEORGES.

Mr. KINGLAKE called attention to the correspondence respecting the Charles-st-Georges. He glanced at the treaties between this country and Portugal; the result, in his opinion, was to bind England to aid Portugal in any just cause; and he then considered the arrangements between the two States regarding the slave trade. Having determined these preliminary points, he gave a summary of the facts contained in the papers, bearing upon the character of the vessel and its human cargo, its seizure and condemnation at Mozambique, and the feeling thereby excited in France. On the 6th of March, 1855, the Foreign Secretary was informed of the claim of France for the restitution of the vessel; and the proposition he (Mr. Kinglake) maintained was that from that day until the month of October Lord Malmesbury, thinking this a grave affair, involving the safety of an ally, nevertheless took no notice of it. The inaction of the British Government continued until the 25th of September, when Lord Malmesbury began to speak of friendly offices, but nothing was done until the 30th, when there was the first approach to anything like good offices on the part of England, and in October her intervention ceased to be of use. Mr. Kinglake said he believed, in his conscience, that if the Emperor of the French had been asked to submit the question to arbitration at any time before October he would have consented. The terms recommended to Portugal, and which Lord Malmesbury had termed "an amicable settlement," she rejected, and had maintained her honour not by adopting but by resisting the counsels of an English minister. He concluded by moving for further papers.

The motion was seconded by Mr. BUNTON.

Mr. S. FITZGERALD said the question was not whether the French Government or the Portuguese Government were in the right, but whether the conduct of the British Government had been right. No one had asserted that we ought to have supported Portugal right or wrong, and Mr. Kinglake had not pretended that we were called upon to act upon our treaties with Portugal. Having examined the Portuguese case, and pointed out its defects, which, he said, prevented the British Government from saying that the French Government was wrong or that of Portugal right, he said the only course her Majesty's Government could take was to refer the whole question to some third party, and that was the course actually taken. He read extracts from the papers to show that the good offices of the British Government were not only promised, but that Lord Cowley took an active part in the negotiations. It was not until the 3rd of October, that a despatch from Lord Cowley informed his Government that the question was assuming a dangerous aspect; and on the 13th, the whole matter was brought to a satisfactory conclusion by the exertions of the British Government. If the charges of Mr. Kinglake were true, his motion was a strange one. If half of them had any foundation, the occupants of the Treasury bench ought no longer to sit there; but the fact was, that in a moment of doubt and difficulty, the Government had taken the course best calculated to preserve unimpaired the honour of England, as well as the peace of Europe.

Mr. LOWE, replying to Mr. Fitzgerald, contended that the ground had totally failed him. The Charles-st-Georges was convicted as a slave, and he cited facts to show that she was justly convicted. He contended that the British Government were bound, without loss of time, to have made up their minds whether this was a case of slave trading or not, and, if Portugal was in the right, to have advised her as to the course she ought to pursue. No definite course was recommended to her, however, but one of dishonour.

Mr. BOVILL questioned whether the vessel was ever within the jurisdiction of Portugal. If so, the French Government was entitled to demand her restitution. Then the presence of a French delegate on board placed the vessel within the scope of diplomacy; moreover, there were irregularities in the case, which cast a doubt on the legality of the seizure. Such a state of circumstances disabled the British Government from acting upon the treaty in the material support of Portugal.

Lord J. RUSSELL said a great deal was to be said on behalf of the Government; and our minister would have been quite wrong to advise Portugal to resist by force of arms the demand of France, violent as it was, and thus expose Europe to the risk of war. The question was, therefore, not one for censure; it was one for comment and criticism on the mode in which the negotiations had been carried on. In his opinion, this was one of those doubtful cases in which the honour of two States were concerned, and which, under the protocol of Paris, should have been submitted to arbitration; and if the English Government had had influence with its ally, and Lord Malmesbury had spoken firmly and in conciliatory language, he would, he believed, have been listened to by that ally. He thought it was owing to the manner in which Lord Malmesbury had conducted the case, that it had not been referred to a third Power.

On the motion of Sir R. Bethel, the debate was adjourned.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 9.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CHURCH-RATE QUESTION.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill,

Sir J. TRELAWNY moved as an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day six months. He thought the provisions of the bill with reference to ownership, and the constitution of the incumbent and churchwardens into a corporation, were very objectionable. This bill not only tended to perpetuate agitation on the subject, but actually to create agitation in districts where it did not at present exist. The church-rates imposed upon Dissenters the obligation of paying not only for the parish church, but also for their own places of worship—that was their practical operation. The country should, therefore, feel grateful to the Dissenters, without whose assistance the working-classes would not have had sufficient accommodation for attending divine worship. It should also be remembered that the Dissenters contributed largely to the religious and secular education of the people.

Lord CASTLEROSKE seconded the amendment. Mr. SOTHERON-ETCOURT supported the bill. It contained two most important objects, namely, the provision for commutation and personal exemption. He suggested that the churchwardens should post on the church door a statement of the repairs requisite for the building, as well as an estimate of the expense, and then that any person having a conscientious objection to paying the rate should signify the same before the next vestry, and be exempted from the impost.

Sir G. GREY opposed the bill. He proposed that the statute of limitations should be made applicable to those rates, and when they had been discontinued in a parish for such a term of years as would indicate the feeling, they should then be finally discontinued. The proposal to transfer the rate from the occupier to the owner would not work well, and he thought the only effectual means of settling the question and terminating the unpleasant feelings that existed on the subject, was to abolish the impost altogether.

Sir J. PARKINGTON said that the speech of Sir G. Grey forced on him the painful conviction that the spirit of party was paramount in that House to the spirit of peace. The Right Hon. Gentleman had acted with the greatest inconsistency in opposing the second reading, and referred to the part he had taken on former occasions when the subject was before the House. There were only two principles involved in the bill, the one providing for a prospective commutation of rates, and, what was conceived in a most friendly spirit, the exemption of Dissenters. He certainly approved of the amendments in the bill which had been suggested, and that persons residing in one district should not be charged for the maintenance of a church in another; and as far as he was concerned, he would consent to an alteration to that effect. He agreed in what had been said as to what the country owed the Dissenters, and he had not been one of those who ever spoke disrespectfully of that body. But, in setting this question, he should wish to know, if they abolished the church-rates, from what other source they could maintain their churches, and he confessed he could not see any such. The bill was conceived in a conciliatory spirit, and he trusted it would not be met in a spirit of faction.

Sir R. BETHELL said the Dissenters objected to church-rates because they considered that impost as a remnant of that ancient spirit of intolerance which had endeavoured to make all conform to one set of doctrines and to one formula of worship. So long as this impost continued, the Dissenters would not consider that they enjoyed entire religious freedom. He concluded by denouncing strongly the measure as being unjust, oppressive, and calculated to excite the greatest hostility amongst the Dissenting body.

Mr. LOWE objected to the bill, because he believed it would rather tend to increase the strife occasioned by the payment of church-rates than to allay any ill feeling.

Mr. WALPOLE said the only real objection he had heard to the bill, was that made by the Hon. Gentleman the member for Kidderminster (Mr. Lowe), but the object of this measure was to remove a pressure, which was surely not a principle that could give rise to strife. He had been told that in exempting Dissenters from church-rates, he was giving up the principle of an Established Church, but his proposition was to remove a burden which was imposed in consideration of a benefit which was now no longer received, all people not being now of the same opinion about religious matters. He did not doubt the voluntary principle, but he was not prepared to give up endowments, while the church could have the benefit both of endowments and voluntary aid. There were parts of the country where the voluntary principle could not reach, and if they gave up what their ancestors provided, they could not maintain the fabric of the church.

Mr. STANHOPE addressed the House amidst loud cries of "Divide, divide." At the conclusion of the Hon. Gentleman's remarks, none of which could be heard, the House divided, when there appeared—For the second reading, 171; against it, 251—majority against the Government, 83. The result was received with loud cheers.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Occasional Form of Prayer Bill passed through committee. The Manor Courts (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

GRAND JURIES IN LONDON.

The Lord CHANCELLOR called attention to the present system under which charges were laid and indictments presented before the grand juries in the metropolitan districts, and laid on the table a bill designed in effect to abolish the interference of grand juries within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court.

The bill, after some discussion, was read a first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

Lord J. RUSSELL notified, that upon the second reading of the Reform Bill, he designed to propose a resolution to the effect that the disfranchisement of that body of electors who now enjoyed votes for the county by a 40s. freehold franchise, on property situate in boroughs, was altogether unjust and impolitic, and that the occupation franchise in boroughs ought to be reduced below the present and proposed minimum.

Mr. MILLER gave notice, that he should move an amendment rescinding the provision under which the county voters qualified as owners of freehold property in the boroughs were to be disfranchised.

Mr. DISRAELI stated that before the second reading some additional clauses would be laid on the table, the effect of which, if adopted, might, he believed, obviate the objections that had been raised respecting the treatment of the borough freeholders.

Mr. WYLD gave notice that he should move, as an addition to the amendment proposed by Lord John Russell, that the votes at elections should be taken by ballot.

ORGANISATION OF THE ARMY.

Captain VIVIAN moved for a select committee to inquire into the effects of the alterations in military organisation regarding the War-office and Board of Ordnance which were made in the year 1855, and also to inquire whether any changes were required to secure the utmost efficiency and economy in the administration of military affairs.

General FELLAS consented to the motion, and the committee was ordered.

CHURCH-RATES.

Sir A. ELTON moved a series of resolutions on the subject of church-rates, which, however, after some discussion, were withdrawn.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES.

In reply to Lord Bury, Sir E. B. LYTTON stated that a mixed commission was about to be nominated, to prosecute an investigation on the spot into the conflicting claims of British and French subjects in connection with the Newfoundland fisheries; and that, meanwhile, the commanders of ships belonging to both countries were enjoined to practise the greatest forbearance towards all parties.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS BILL.

This bill passed through committee.

Mr. H. BERKELEY afterwards moved the addition of a clause providing that the votes at these elections should be taken by ballot.

The CHAIRMAN having stated that this addition was out of order,

Mr. H. BERKELEY intimated his intention to renew the motion at a future stage of the bill.

CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.

Sir J. TRELAWNY moved the second reading of the Church-rate Abolition Bill.

Mr. B. HOPE, protesting against proceeding with so important a measure at so late an hour, moved the adjournment of the debate.

This motion, altogether at first negatived, was ultimately agreed to, and the House adjourned at one o'clock.

"COASTING" IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

THE sketch from which we this week publish an engraving is accompanied by a letter which explains and illustrates it. The writer says:—"Sleighting has been so frequently described that I will not bore you with a repetition; and skating is too well known to need any description. 'Coasting,' however, is but little known, I fancy; indeed, even in Halifax, it is fast becoming a thing of the past, and only remembered as a general amusement by some of the oldest inhabitants. Even the small boys, now almost its only supporters, are obliged to confine their erratic movements to out-of-the-way places and retired hills. Formerly, probably, ere 'Old Chebruto' (the Indian name for Halifax) could boast a single policeman, they used to 'coast' down the various hilly streets leading from the citadel to the sea-shore. Many accidents occurred in their terrific descents from the heights above; generally from coming in contact with passing sleighs, or foot-passengers that crossed them in the streets running at right angles. A boy has been known to shoot between the legs of a horse as it was passing, being unable to stop himself or change his direction; another fairly carried an old lady down to the foot of the hill by catching her between the legs with his head, and continuing his journey with his fair outrider. The old lady having recovered from the first surprise of this unexpected and novel mode of conveyance, held the unfortunate charioteer by the hair, and belaboured him most unmercifully until she reached the terminus, a deep snow-bank. Although, I believe, coasting is still carried on in Canada, the 'blue-noses' are beginning to look upon it with a degree of coldness. However, I managed to see a little of it, and right good fun it was too; it did away with all stiffness and formality in a very short time. One had not much time to think of proprieties, when descending a steep hill covered with ice, at a pace that almost took away one's breath, and, as it frequently happened, a capsize at the foot of it. This, however, was a trifle; up you jumped, shook yourself, dusted off the superfluous snow from the 'sharer of your fate,' and dragging the 'coaster' to the summit, prepared for another flight; the manner of which was as follows:—The gentleman seated himself in front, saddlewise, his legs extended on either side, and guiding his sledge with his feet; the lady sits close behind, holding on by the gentleman's waist. The descent for the first few yards was slow; gradually the pace quickened, until at last it became 'fast and furious'; and if the path was clear and free from sharp and broken pieces of crust, you effected your descent in safety; but if unfortunately there *was* such a spot, your feet caught, a cloud of dry snow flew in your face, and over you went. A smothered shriek from your fair companion, who was half-buried in the snow, yourself on your back, and the coaster, continuing its unguided course, like an engine off the rails without its driver, until it was brought to at the foot of the hill by a snow-bank on the opposite side of the road. You were then convinced that, like Phœton, you had miscalculated your powers. It may appear ungallant, but these mishaps were not always the result of accident; but the course of coasting, like true love, does not (nor should it if you want excitement) always run smooth. Having re-captured your fugitive conveyance, you drag it to the top of the hill, and try again.

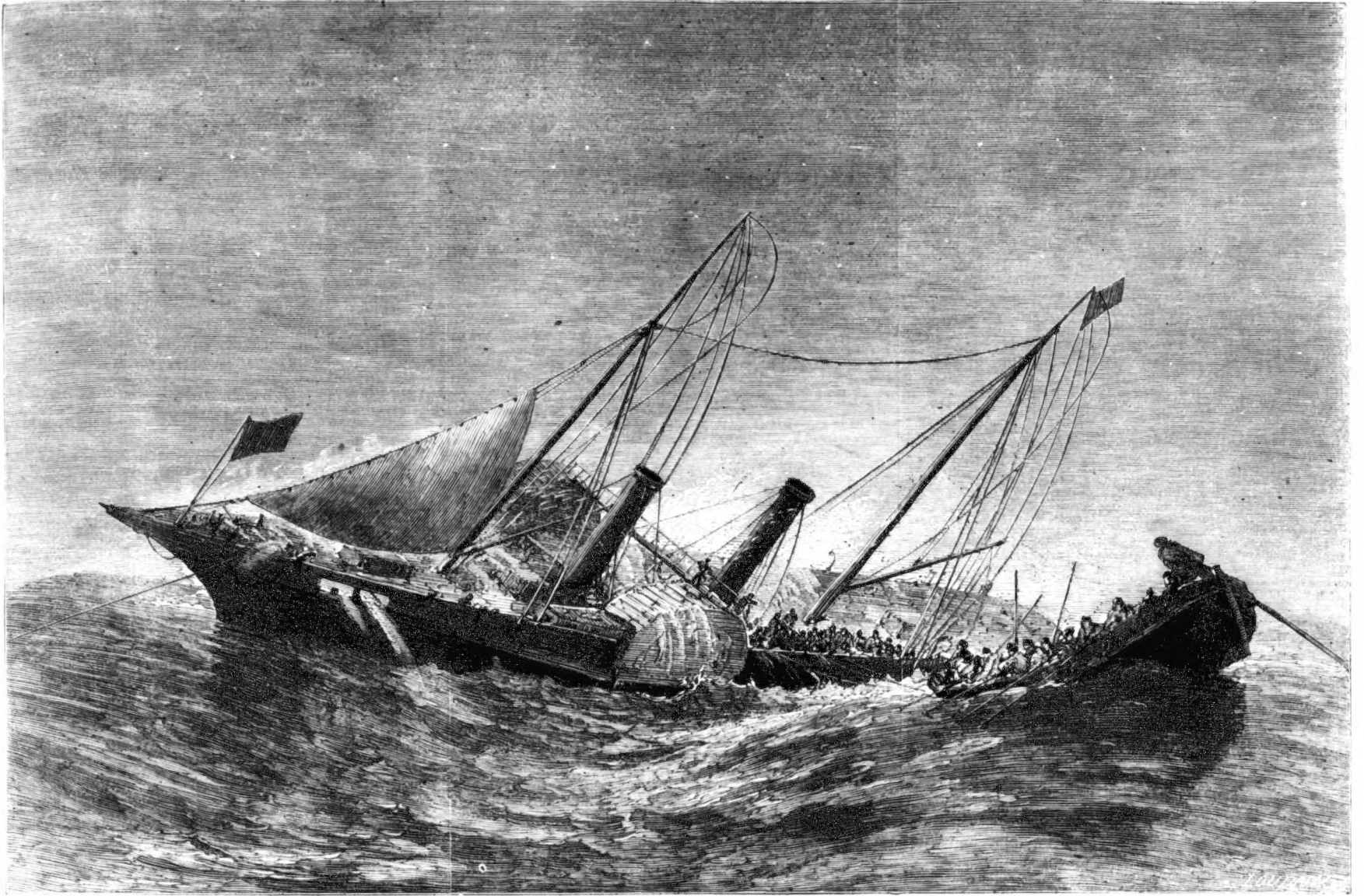
It would be difficult to describe in words the excitement of this amusement. At starting, you feel a little nervous; then, as the pace quickens, your pulse rises, till at length, when, in the midst of your wild career, you are prepared to go at a five-barred gate—should you come across one. Indeed, this is not altogether fancy; for at the foot of the glacis of the citadel (a favourite place for coasting, *vide sketch*), there is a railing that divides it from the road, which being buried in snow, the top is on a level with the railway, but still separated from it, by a space of about two feet, occasioned by the joint influence of wind, and the radiation of heat from the wood, as may be frequently seen along the bottom of a wall, after a fall of snow accompanied by wind. This rail the more expert 'coasters' will sometimes fly, continuing their course for some distance on the level ground beyond. Another way of adding to the excitement, was by placing a large log across the descent, which, when covered by snow, of course left a sort of mound; now if you came down the hill at a good pace, and crossed this, you experienced a bump which obliged you to hold on like grim death, and you congratulated yourself, and thought yourself clever, if you were not split. Altogether, if this is carried out, as it generally is, on a fine, bright moonlight night, and you are warmly clad in furs, &c., with a pretty and agreeable partner behind you, it is an amusement not to be despised, and adds in a very great degree to while away some of the long, cold days and nights of the still longer winters of 'Old Chebruto.'





"QUASHING" AT HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.—(FROM A SKETCH BY CAPTAIN J. F. BLENDY, 70TH REGIMENT.)





THE PRINCE FREDERICK-WILLIAM MAIL STEAMER ASHORE OFF CALAIS



THE TIRED SHOE-BLACK BOY.—(FROM A PICTURE BY MARSHALL CLAXTON, IN THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)



### THE ACCIDENT TO THE PRINCE FREDERICK-WILLIAM PACKET.

THE accident to the *Prince Frederick-William* packet in Calais harbour does not seem to have been so severe as was at first reported. Indeed, we were told last week that the vessel was to all intents and purposes lost; while now her commander reports that she sustained no damage to her hull beyond "two small holes in two of her plates, which filled the fore compartments with water." It is fortunate that she escaped so well; for she appears to have been in great danger, as may be imagined from the sketch on the preceding page, which was made from the sands.

Captain Pittock's account of the disaster is as follows:—

"On arriving off Calais at about 1.15 a.m., blowing hard W.N.W., and a heavy sea running, the usual night signals were shown from the harbour piers for my vessel to enter, and while entering at easy speed between the piers, in consequence of the low state of the water and heavy sea, the vessel touched on the bar, and lost all command of the helm; the following sea lifted her, and she struck the east pier with great violence, completely disabled her, and the port paddle-wheel; and on giving the order for the engines to go ahead, the engineer reported that the engines would not work in consequence of the damaged state of the wheel. The vessel, thus completely disabled, drifted past the east pier and stranded on the sand, broadside on, and a heavy sea striking her, carried away the davits and port-quarter boat, and the carpenter reported the mail and baggage and fore-cabin were filling in consequence of two plates having been partly stove in. The after-cabin and engine-room were quite water-tight, and from the construction of the vessel (being in water-tight compartments), and built expressly to take the ground in the tidal harbours of Dover, Calais, and Ostend, I did not apprehend any further damage to the vessel from her being ashore.

"I most distinctly deny, as stated by 'One of the Saved'—(whose letter we quoted last week)—that I requested the mail-guard to come on deck, as he was not safe in the cabin; and, instead of my impression being that the vessel would have parted across the centre, she was too firmly embedded in the sand to apprehend any such danger, and too firmly constructed for such a casualty to occur. Neither did I or any of my crew state that the Calais people ought to have sent off boats an hour previously, but that I afterwards stated that no boat could live in such a sea. The fact that I sent the ship's boat ashore with six passengers is the best contradiction I can give to this misstatement.

"At four a.m. the lifeboat came alongside, and I asked if any passenger or passengers wished to go ashore, as it was perfectly practicable to reach it. I did not urge any person to embark in the lifeboat; on the contrary, I assured them of their safety if they remained on board, as in a few hours everybody would be able to walk ashore. Many of the passengers now entered the lifeboat, when, from some unexplained cause (although not overcrowded), she capsized, and all those who had entered her were immersed in the water, and, most unfortunately, three were drowned, although not more than a few minutes in the water. Instead of the lifeboat righting herself, as stated by 'One of the Saved,' by the passengers holding on to the lashing, this very circumstance prevented her doing so as soon as she otherwise would have done.

"With respect to the very serious charge made against me as a seaman by 'One of the Saved,' for allowing the lifeboat to receive passengers on the windward, instead of the leeward side of the vessel, I most distinctly and emphatically deny that the lifeboat ever received a passenger on the windward or weather side of the vessel. During the whole time she was alongside the *Prince* she was on the leeward side. I make this denial, not only in justice to myself, but to the crew of the lifeboat, who were indefatigable in their efforts to relieve the passengers from their natural anxiety."

### THE TIRED SHOE-BLACK.

MR. MARSHALL CLAXTON has contributed to the British Institution the representation of a shoe-black, as completely worn-out as—if he continues to work so hard—his own brushes will soon be. What are we to say about the ex-pupil of the ragged school and actual member of the blacking brigade? In real life we should advise him to get up and either continue his work, or, if unable to do so, go home; but meeting with him on canvas, we can only say that he is capitally painted, correctly drawn, and as like the true, living, sleeping shoe-black as can well be.

### ARRIVAL OF THE NEAPOLITAN EXILES IN QUEENSTOWN.

THE American ship *David Stuart* entered Queenstown on Sunday, having on board the Neapolitan exiles, Poerio and 64 companions, nearly all professional men.

The ship, while on her voyage to the United States, as chartered by the Neapolitan Government, had received a crate at Cadiz, a young man who turned out to be Raffaele Settembrini, son of the patriot. By his aid the refugees took the ship out of the captain's hand, and navigated her to Queenstown.

Another account says:—"About 7 o'clock on Sunday morning a vessel under the American flag dropped into Queenstown, and very soon became an object of much curiosity and interest when it was discovered that she had on board the Neapolitan patriot, Count or Colonel Poerio, with his companions, 69 in number, including one bishop and seven priests. They had been permitted to transport themselves to New York, the Neapolitan Government stipulating to give each of them on arrival at New York the sum of 120 dollars 'to begin life' with anew in America. On the arrival of the vessel at Cadiz, outside the Straits of Gibraltar, the refugees, who greatly outnumbered the crew, the latter being only 17 in number, rose in 'mutiny,' and insisted that the captain should steer direct for Cork harbour. To this request the captain, of course, gave a flat refusal, but he was forcibly deprived of the command of the vessel for the time being, and his second mate appointed in his place *pro tem*.

The "Times" has a leader urging upon the nation to receive these exiles with the distinction they deserve:—

"For ten years King Ferdinand had judged it necessary to confine them in chains in the most miserable dungeons within the knowledge of his police, in underground dens, and exposed to the horrors of a most lingering death; but death would not come when they solicited his stroke. They had been condemned, not indeed without a form of trial, but after a trial which had aroused the wonder of Europe, so unblushing was the perjury, so scandalous were the proceedings, so resolved were the judges to insure a condemnation. They are no vulgar conspirators—they have nothing to do with the miserable backstair routine of Italian conspiracy; but when Europe was convulsed by a movement which they had not provoked, at the request of their king they assisted him to inaugurate a constitutional system of government at Naples. In the most solemn way, and with the most awful words which a human being may use, the king invoked eternal perdition upon his head if he proved false to his pledged word; but after the 15th of May he blew all these promises to the four winds. These unfortunate gentlemen, whom we are now proud to welcome to our shores, had really been guilty of no more heinous crime than that of believing in their sovereign's word. For this crime—and it is one which no man will repeat—they were condemned to ten years of such misery as few men have endured and survived to tell the tale. The breath of calumny has never passed upon their fair and honourable reputations. They have never impelled others to rush into danger which they avoided themselves. They have never been accused, even by the foul voices of the Neapolitan crown officers, of peculation. We know not, indeed, of any suggestion of evil which attaches to any one of their number. The event of 1848 occurred without any provocation on their part. King Ferdinand of the Two Sicilies in order to save his throne and his neck, made a rush at a constitution. He solicited earnestly, and personally, the chiefs of these refugees to take part and to bear office under his new system. They did so. A few months, or weeks, passed away, and he found himself in a position to set his promises and engagements at defiance. He turned the cannon upon his subjects, and at his leisure trumped up a miserable charge of conspiracy, which had no foundation in fact, against the statesmen who had lent him their aid to preserve his throne in the hour of his dire distress. The victims of his tyranny and faithlessness are now among us. There is an instinct stronger than all political calculation which calls on us to do honour to these men."

THE REVOLUTION IN HAITI.—The Haitian journals contain a curious recital of the sitting of the Senate of Haiti, in which General Geffard took the oath as president of the new republic. The gold crown of the Emperor was placed upon the table, and the new president, taking a little hammer in his hand, said he would not break the bauble—that would be an act of vandalism—but he would give it three "symbolical" strokes, after which it should be placed in the public treasury, "where it would be appreciated at its proper value." This was accordingly done, and the president retired amidst the acclamations of the assembly.

### FIRE AND LOSS OF THREE LIVES IN MARYLEBONE.

THE Horse and Groom Tavern, in Great Portland Street, Marylebone, was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning, and with it three lives.

The fire appears to have been discovered at the same time by a policeman and Mrs. Price, the landlady, who was in bed at the time. The latter awoke her husband, and they jumped out of bed and tried to escape; but the staircase was in flames. However, they succeeded by their cries in making all in the house sensible of their danger; and besides the landlady and his wife there were in the building their two children, the potman, the servant girl, two lodgers, and the nephew of the former proprietor of the house.

Not more than 150 yards from the building stood one of the Royal Society's escapes; but before it could be placed in position, the fire appeared to have taken complete possession of every room at the back of the house, as well as several rooms in the front. However, the fire-escape conductor succeeded in bringing Mr. and Mrs. Price, and their two children, safely down. He had scarcely done so when a great crash and breaking of glass at the back premises was heard, caused by one of the lodgers having jumped out of one of the upper windows, and fallen through a skylight. The poor fellow was so terribly injured that he remains in a very precarious state.

The conductor next attempted to rescue some persons in one of the upper rooms; but when he had ascended, the flames shot through the windows on the second floor, and fired the machine. To save his own life, he was compelled to make a precipitate retreat; as it was, he was almost suffocated when he reached the ground.

Loud screams for help were now heard proceeding, not only from the upper part of the house, but from the lower. A man was rescued from the ground floor, but he was so injured as to be obliged to be removed to the hospital. Meanwhile the flames spread rapidly. Some hours elapsed before the firemen could get the mastery over them, and not until the whole of the back part of the house was destroyed, and the front partially so. But, worst of all, three persons had perished: Robert Moon, the potman, Sarah Jones, the servant girl, and Jasper Partis, an aged man, one of the lodgers.

### REFORM MEETINGS.

DURING the past week placards were posted in various parts of the metropolis calling upon all true Reformers to attend a meeting in Hyde Park, on Sunday, for the purpose of opposing to the utmost the Government Reform Bill, the time named being 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Long before that hour, however, the park presented a most animated appearance, the place of meeting being the green sward at the rear of the Royal Humane Society's Receiving-house. At 2 o'clock the crowd greatly increased, and in about half an hour a man of respectable appearance was hoisted on the shoulders of two others, and it was considered that the chair had been taken, the gentleman thus elevated being greeted with loud cheers. A great disappointment, however, awaited the assembly, for the supposed chairman (whose name was understood to be Mr. George Brooker) commenced by saying that those who dared to take part in a political meeting on the Sabbath would be grossly offending the Almighty. This announcement was met by the utmost uproar, and the greatest confusion followed, the orator being forced from his position amidst a sharp shower of orange peel and grass, which it is but fair to state was thrown by the juveniles. Shortly after 3 o'clock it was announced that the chair would be taken by Mr. Sharl, and the noisy multitude at once became quiet. The chairman having been duly elected.

Mr. Bradlaugh, a young man well known in democratic circles, came forward and addressed the meeting. He said that no thinking man could by any possibility call the Government measure a Reform Bill at all. The people of England asked for a right, which it was evident the Government did not intend to grant them, but the people themselves knew that if they sternly demanded their own they must get it.

A Mr. Mantell (of Newcastle) said he had come about 300 miles to establish an institution that was to convert the bishops and to Christianise the whole clergy. The Queen, like all those who were born, had to live, and she was kept. Englishmen scorned to be kept—they liked to keep themselves by their own honest labour—but the fact was that such Government was as necessary an evil as clergymen or a bishop. Since the Revolution in 1688 the land had been in the hands of the nobles, and the people had been crushed. If there was not a Government to be found who could properly manage the affairs of the country, the people could easily find one among themselves. He would be bound that, if they reduced the general affairs of the nation to pounds, shillings, and pence, they could get a dozen clerks from the city who would carry out that portion of Government a great deal better than it had ever been done. There was no Reform Bill at all, and he called upon them one and all not to adopt the sham of the Government, but, in the language of Mr. Bright, to have a good bill or no bill at all.

The Chairman here asked if such was the opinion of the meeting, and was replied to by a forest of hands being held up amidst loud and prolonged cheering. After which the crowd dispersed without disorder.

Several other meetings were held in the park, one of which, held near the Marble Arch, was very stormy. The chairman, a milkman named Evans, said he had a two-fold object in view in appearing before them; one was to oppose the bill brought in by Lord Derby, and the other to raise his voice against the greatest tyrant in Europe, and he was sorry to say that there was no doubt that Lord Derby was in that tyrant's confidence. He referred to Louis Napoleon. He would recommend them, if the Government bill was pressed upon them, to refer to a recent number of "Punch," in which they would see represented her Majesty's store-room. There it was recommended that John Bull should keep his powder dry, and he asked them to do "ditto."

There was no interference with any of the meetings, hardly a police-constable being visible. Dr. Bernard was present, and was at first mistaken for a French spy, and hooted accordingly. However, he disclosed his name, and was cheered out of the park.

Meetings have also been held at Norwich, Sheffield, Newcastle, Leicester, Dudley, Bedford, Keighley, Hereford, and other provincial towns, to denounce the Government bill. In London, a crowded meeting was held in St. Pancras on Monday, at which both Sir B. Hall and Mr. Edwin James were present. These gentlemen spoke strongly against the measure, and resolutions calling for its rejection, and supporting manhood suffrage and the vote by ballot, were unanimously adopted. Another meeting was held in the Lambeth Baths, attended by Mr. Williams and Mr. Roupell, both of whom denounced the Government bill, and as warmly advocated manhood suffrage and the ballot. A meeting in favour of the enfranchisement of Chelsea was likewise held on Monday last: the members for Middlesex were present. On Tuesday evening, there was a great meeting of the inhabitants of Westminster at St. Martin's Hall. It was attended by Sir J. Shelley and Sir De Lacy Evans. And lastly, a meeting was held at Birmingham on Wednesday evening, which was addressed by Mr. Bright. It was a meeting which was even more than usually enthusiastic; and such a strong feeling arose against Mr. Ernest Jones, who had gone down to oppose Mr. Bright, that it was utterly impossible for him to obtain a hearing, and he seems to have retired under the protection of the police. Resolutions condemning the Government bill were adopted.

LORD ALFRED HERVEY, a liberal conservative, and formerly member for Brighton, has been returned as the representative of Bury St. Edmunds.—Sir William Codrington has formally announced his intention of resigning his seat for Greenwich some time in April. The Hon. F. Lygon is elected for Tewkesbury. Mr. Humphrey Brown opposed him, but had not courage to go to the poll.

DISTINGUISHED CONVICTS.—The Rev. Joseph Johnston, sent out to minister to the convicts in Fremantle, Western Australia, by the Colonial Missionary Society, announces the arrival of Robson and Redpath, and Agar and Tester, with their friend Seward, alias Jem the Penman. The writer says:—"They are all engaged on the public works, making roads, &c. Redpath and Robson are engaged, as I am writing, wheeling stones near my house, with shackles upon their persons. Their health appears to be good, but they seem wretched and dejected, and weary of their lives. The celebrated Rev. Dr. Beresford, who is related to a noble marquis, and who, with a living of £1,000 a-year, committed forgery to an enormous extent, has also arrived out in the colony, and is now employed sweeping the wards in the new convict prison, which has just been completed. It is an immense structure, and took seven years to build. The prison has 1,000 separate cells, chapel, hospital, lunatic asylum, workshops, and residences for the governor and his deputy, chaplain, doctor, &c. The convict expenditure here is £100,000 per annum, and has been the making of the colony, and there is no doubt the ticket-of-leave men will eventually be the leading men of the colony. Several conditional pardon men are already established in capital businesses as merchants, and one is now carrying on an extensive timber trade with the other colonies and India. A great many of the ticket-of-leave men marry the servant girls here and make good husbands. I have united several during the past year. Fremantle is rapidly rising into importance, and in a few years will rank among the foremost settlements in the Australian colonies."

### SIR E. LANDSEER'S "RETURN FROM HAWKING."

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## ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1859.

### THE REFORM BILL.

THE alternatives, according to Lord Derby, for the House of Commons to choose between, on the 21st, are the second reading of the Government Bill, or a dissolution of Parliament. The Premier, if defeated by a junction of different parties in the House, must either appeal to the country, or else resign office. It is obvious that the people ought to be consulted about a measure which claims to be able to add 500,000 of them to the existing constituency; and it is not clear that any statesman fit now capable of forming a strong administration in the presents state of the House itself. The nation must be directly and formally asked what it wants: whether an increased suffrage, a few more seats, and a little disfranchisement are sufficient for the present needs of progress; or whether it prefers a prolonged agitation for something infinitely more extensive. We say a "prolonged agitation," because it is well-known that Lord John's bill has failed; that Lord Palmerston has no bill; and that a House, chosen as the present one is, is not likely to tolerate Mr. Bright's bill. So that many months and much controversy must necessarily precede anything like a hopeful measure from other quarters than the Government, which measure, too, will have to be sent to "the country" in its turn.

On reading the reports of the meetings which have condemned the measure, we observe that the opposition springs from those who desire changes much more extreme than appear to be wanted by the country generally. All who go for numerical uniformity—or even for any approach to it—of course dislike the bill, for it hardly deals at all with the most glaring of the existing anomalies in this respect. All that the bill proposes, is to widen the basis of the present system of representation, without in any way changing its character. This, we anticipate, is not regarded by the middle classes even—to say nothing of the working man—as a sufficiently liberal scheme of reform.

While, however, the proposed bill takes in the working-class far too sparingly, it nevertheless gives them the power of making themselves felt by representation more effectively than they think. For nobody will pretend that £10 occupancy, eight-shilling-lodging, and savings' bank franchise, do not take in considerable numbers of the better-paid and most important of artisans, mechanics, and so forth, many of whom are men of more reading and reflection than the shopkeepers. And are not such of them as these provisions do take in, among the most influential of the class? Well, then, what prevents them from using even this state of things as a means for influencing elections and politics in a way which they have never yet been able to do? Let those who do acquire the franchise among them, represent their own class—inside the general representation—and so they will gain, in practice, some of the powers for which they are contending (when they ask for universal suffrage) in theory. At present, one sees isolated working men fighting helplessly for extreme principles, who, if they accepted the new means of getting votes opened to the best of their class, and meet (as representatives of it) the old voters on their own grounds, will secure a practical importance for working men's influence in the State. By allowing themselves, however, to be made the tools of extreme men, what do the working people get? Do they really suppose that Lord John Russell, and a handful of grandees and mill-owners, can be serious in wishing to see "the people" predominant? They should inquire what a clever young artisan's chance of political importance really is, at present, at Tavistock or Rochdale. It is the very nature of oligarchy to flatter masses for the express purpose of keeping down individuals, and if it ever comes to a matter of downright masses in this rich country, the really brilliant individuals among the humble folk will find themselves swamped. The very extent of the body to be operated on will crush all chance, except for those who can command machinery, and machinery in politics means money and social power.

The subject is too extensive to be discussed except in one or two aspects at a time, and for to day we have exhausted our space. Yet the essence of the question is, whether the working-men are really ill-treated by the bill, and we think they will find something worth reflecting on in these hints.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY EXTENSION.—The South-Eastern Railway has decided on applying for a terminus, at Charing Cross, for an extension line uniting London Bridge station with the Waterloo station and passing over, as the late Mr. Wyndham Harding frequently urged on the South-Western directors, Hungerford Bridge to Hungerford Market, the basement of which will, as now, continue to be used for wharfage purposes. Northumberland House, suggests the "Building News," may be annexed as a hotel. As the line will pass through the property of St. Thomas's Hospital, close to the edifice itself, it is fitly enough asked, why not remove the hospital to a healthy site in the suburbs of London, such as the high ground at Brentford Butts?



## SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has contributed £50, and the Prince Consort £25, towards the restoration and preservation of Peel Castle, Isle of Man.

THE DUKES OF CAMBRIDGE presided, last week, over the annual dinner in aid of the funds of the German Hospital. During the evening the large sum of £1,200 was subscribed.

DOES EVERYBODY NOT deliver any letters of credence (says the "Non-Resistant") to the Emperor of Austria?

THE NORTH LITERARY SOCIETY'S Council has decided upon making the garden in future exclusively experimental; and a circular letter has been extensively distributed, inviting co-operation, by the transmission of a narrative trial of every kind of new, or supposed new, vegetable.

MARTINEAU, the Chief Justice of the Landed Estates Court, died at 11 o'clock on Monday morning. The day of his successor is to be £2,500.

THE LATE LORD BUCKINGHAM, High Sheriff of Wiltshire, has appointed Mr. M. T. Toller, of Parliament Street, to be his agent in the county of Wiltshire, and Mr. Robinson to the office of deputy agent.

AN ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE LONDON AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY to obtain possession of the £16,000 settled by Mr. Sturges on his wife, and of which his confederate, Colonel Waugh, was the trustee, has wholly failed.

MR. WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, the recently-appointed Government engineer in charge of the Ordnance, is now engaged at the Royal Arsenal directing the necessary arrangements, to enable him to carry out the duties of his office.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PAUPERS in England and Wales in the week of January, 1858, was 956,771. The number relieved in the fifth week of January last was 814,691, or a decrease of 104,082.

SOME APPOINTMENTS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND are being made. The late Mr. Sturges, a distinguished visitor, it is suspected for the Grand Duke of Baden, is his Duke.

THE NEW WEDDING PARADE, in waiting at St. George's, Hanover Square, has been named the "mitch-box."

A MOUNTAIN TO MOUNT PARK, the African traveller, has been erected at St. James's Palace.

SOME TWENTY BOYS being required for H.M.S. Hogue, an inspection was made of the pupils in the Ragged School, to ascertain if any of these were suitable, but none were found to come up to the standard required by the Admiralty.

REAR-ADMIRAL, of all the German States the most eager in her friendship for us, is about to raise a loan of between six and seven hundred thousand marks, for putting the finances of the country into a better state.

A DINNER GIVEN BY THE PRINCESS MATILDE, on Sunday, it was stated that most of the guests were Hungarians, and that after the dinner they were presented by the Princess to the Prince Napoleon.

ABOUT 20,000 REFUGEES ARE ASSEMBLED IN Piedmont; including 1,000 from the armies of Austria and Mexico.

THE SILENCE OF THE WESTMINSTER CLOCK has attracted attention. In Parliament it is asserted, on the authority of Mr. Denison, that the clock is not ready. Out of doors, it is said, that "the clock room is empty, and that the clock ought to be there." It is hard to decide when the clock is to be ready.

THE "NORIC" ALLEGES, as a reason why Cardinal Antonelli should be made the French evacuate Rome, that Austria would maintain her troops in Rome, and could therefore resist Rome on the slightest provocation.

AT ANDOVER a man and woman are in custody on a charge of bigamy. The prisoners are husband and wife, and, strange to say, the man had signed the register at his wife's second marriage, she accompanying her husband in the same way on his second marriage.

THE MARQUIS OF AILSA has been decorated with the Order of the Thistle. The Island and Fortress of Valletta are being put in a state of defence.

TWO MEN WERE DROWNED IN THE THAMES, a few days ago, by the upsetting of a boat, in which they were escaping from the police.

RENTY HALL, near Clonbury, has been destroyed by fire.

THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION has appointed the sum of 300,000 rubles for the support of unsuccessful authors.

A COMMITTEE, including nearly every name in the Academy, is labouring to raise a public memorial to the late Thomas Stothard. It is proposed to place the National Gallery, or some other public institution, a statue or bust of the artist.

THE LAYING DOWN A SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH CABLE between Hongkong and Singapore is advocated by the Indian press, in order to facilitate telegraphic communication between India and China. The expense is estimated at £100,000.

A COMMISSION ON LIGHTHOUSES has been appointed. It is to inquire into the efficiency and cost of the present system both here and in the colonies, and after comparing it with the methods of foreign countries to report any change can be advantageously made.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA has been applying torture "of the most revolting kind" to extort money out of the brother and nephew of the late disgraced Minister, the Sadat Azam. It has had the effect of making them disgorge about £50,000, but his Majesty declared he would not rest content until this sum was doubled.

ARCHBISHOP LAW has given to the inhabitants of Weston-super-Mare, a town-hall, ball, and concert-room, at a cost of nearly £1,000.

MR. HARRIS, who succeeds Mr. Charles Keen as the lessee of the Princess's Theatre, commences his campaign next September. Among the artists already engaged are Miss Charlotte Leckie, and Mrs. C. Young.

SIGNOR FABINI, the Italian statesman, has written a letter to Lord John Russell, which sets forth in strong but temperate language, the violations of the treaty of Vienna persisted in by Austria, shows grounds for the policy of Piedmont, and the alliance with France, and laments the change of opinion in England which has shown itself in a leaning towards Austria and a jealousy of France.

AT SHEPPERS AND CHAMBER DOCKYARDS several hundred additional workmen have been entered, and the men are to commence working over-time. New siege guns from the Lowmoor and other foundries are delivered at Woolwich pier almost daily.

A RUSSIAN SQUADRON, composed of a line-of-battle ship and two frigates, having the Grand Duke Constantine on board, entered the grand harbour of Malta on the 21st ult. He sailed thence on the 2nd of March, for Athens.

JAPAN is now attracting attention among our merchants in China as an opening for foreign trade. Late advices from Shanghai say that eight or ten ships had cleared for Nagasaki since the treaties were made; the Japanese Government admitting them under the Dutch treaty until ratifications were exchanged.

THE BRUSSELS "INDEPENDENCE" mentions that at a soirée on Friday evening given by the Duchess of Istria, Count Walewski was observed to have a very animated conversation with M. Thiers.

"THE HOLY SEE is now engaged in recruiting a body of 5,000 men in Poland, who are to be sent forthwith to Rome to form his Holiness's body guard." This cool statement is made by the "Nord."

LORD JOHN RUSSELL is said to have had a long interview with Mr. Bright, and that the "Hon. Member for Birmingham" gave him to understand that it was not his intention to thwart him in his policy.

THE PRINCE REGENT OF PRUSSIA has not signed a single warrant up to the present time. Within the last few days the counsel of a woman, condemned to death for having killed her husband and child, has opposed the confirmation of sentence by the Prince on the ground that the law gives this right exclusively to the King in person, and that it cannot be transferred to any one.

THE AUTHOR OF THE "NATURAL HISTORY OF THE CREATION" is said by the "Critic," "upon evidence of the highest authority" to have been the late Mr. George Combe.

THE "INDEPENDENCE" of Brussels states that Prince Napoleon has given orders that a complete hydrographical survey of the Red Sea shall be commenced in the spring. Captain Russell, formerly aide-de-camp to Admiral Paucot Deschamps, will be charged to superintend the operations.

THE FIRST SHOT OF THE IRON HORSE IN SCOTLAND was heard on the 1st of February. The line between the Bander and the Gize Junction has been opened.

IT HAS BEEN INTIMATED, that as, by the Fraudulent Trustees Act Intely 1851, the offence for which Mr. Strahan and Sir John Paul were sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment would now be visited by a punishment limited to three years, the infliction in their case will be commuted to a period of four years. Their liberation will consequently take place in October next.

THE TREATY OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION concluded between Russia and England, which was ratified by the Emperor on the 10th of January last, has been published.

## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

WE have all of us heard of the apple of discord; but I will venture to say that since the creation there never was such an apple of discord thrown into a crowd as that which her Majesty's Government has pitched into the House of Commons. Imagination cannot conceive of anything more ingeniously devised to disintegrate parties, and make every man fly away from his neighbour, than is this remarkable bill. It is my duty to collect opinions upon popular topics and present them to your readers; but to ascertain men's opinions on this measure is simply impossible. It certainly lacks one essential—to wit, the national beef-steak, and without that I cannot imagine that the people will accept it. The taste of almost every political theorist has been consulted, but the healthy, homely appetite of the people has not been thought of. That the bill will pass no man can believe. It may get into committee, though I don't believe that it will, but when it gets there what will be its fate? The late, I apprehend, of that unhappy man who had two wives, one of whom pulled all the gray hairs out of his head, and the other all the black. Report says, that on the clause which disfranchises the county voters resident in boroughs, the Government means to give way. This is not to be considered "a principle of the bill," and therefore may go. But if this is not "a principle," what is? Is that joke which is running through the clubs no joke, then? "If we get the bill into committee," said a member of the Government, "and you don't disturb the principle, we don't care." "Well, but what is the principle?" inquired an Opposition member standing by. "The principle!"—oh, the principle of a bill you know is its preamble!"

The report that there has been a meeting of "the old Whig leaders," and that it was decided there that Lord John Russell was to move an amendment on the second reading, is not true. There has been no meeting, although Lord John has given notice of amendment. It is also understood that Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston have "set their horses together." I have this on authority which I cannot doubt; and moreover Lord John Russell has been to one of Lady Palmerston's soirées; and perhaps some united action may be decided upon before your paper appears. Lord John Russell is not a little harassed just now by the opposing claims of public and private duties; for, on the one hand, there is the political crisis; and, on the other, the dangerous illness of his father-in-law, Lord Minto, who is said to be dying.

The Radicals are in a "fix," and they will require all Mr. Milner Gibson's sagacity to get them out of it. They must oppose the bill, whatever may be the result. But if the Whigs join in the opposition, the overthrow of the Government must ensue; and then there seems to be no other alternative but a Whig administration—a consummation not devoutly to be wished by the Radicals, but, on the contrary, to be prevented if possible. This is an awkward dilemma; and it remains to be seen whether the active, scheming brain of Mr. Gibson will be able to discover some way out of it. The forlorn hope of the Radicals would appear to be a dissolution, by which the Radical party might be so strengthened in the House as to be "master of the situation." I call it a "forlorn hope," because the result of a general election is always uncertain; and further, because no members of Parliament, not even Radicals, however boldly they may talk on the hustings about short Parliaments, like dissolutions.

But I doubt very much whether there will be a dissolution. "Appeal to the country!" What will there be to appeal about? Long before the candidates can get to the hustings—though the people are not much excited and lively in this matter—the bill will have been tried and condemned. Lord Derby, it is true, is reported to have pluckily determined upon a dissolution if his bill be rejected; but when he comes face to face with a dissolution, and calculates its probable cost and result, my opinion is, that "the native hue of resolution" in this case, as in so many others, will become "sobered o'er with the pale cast of thought," and the idea of a dissolution will be abandoned. Much, however, will depend upon the largeness of the majority against the bill. The Conservative county members must hate the thought of a dissolution; for how can they ask the freeholders, residents in boroughs, for their votes when this bill proposes to disfranchise them? And let it be remembered that in most of the counties these freeholders are sufficiently numerous to turn the election. And we must also bear in mind that a dissolution in the middle of a session, though talked about lightly, is really a very serious matter, involving consequences of great importance. First, consider the loss to the London trade; and then also the enormous loss which the promoters of private bills would have to suffer. There are at this moment some 270 private bills before Parliament; and if there were to be a dissolution of Parliament, all these bills would be stopped, and the money and time expended upon them all lost. All this and much more must be considered before Lord Derby ventures to dissolve.

Those gentlemen whose mission it is to manufacture marvellous gossip for the metropolitan journals—I do not mean the "Fashionable Entertainments," "Coming Marriage in High Life," and other Jenkinsisms, but the builders-up of literary and artistic intelligence—have lately been circulating various wonderful and wholly incorrect rumours about the differences which exist between the proprietors of "Household Words," and the results likely to accrue therefrom. Among other things, they have announced that Mr. Dickens will secede from "Household Words," which will henceforth be carried on by Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, that the conductors of the paper have been offered to Mr. Thackeray, that Mr. G. A. Sala will be a prominent contributor, and that it will have the advantage of "all the 'Punch' staff." Of the good to be derived from the last-named adjunct I am unable to judge, as I never read the periodical at present sustained by these gentlemen, but the truth of the other rumours is very doubtful. The state of the case is this:—A difference having arisen between Mr. Dickens on the one side, and Messrs. Bradbury and Evans on the other, "Household Words," their joint property, will be put up to sale. I should much doubt whether a purchaser will be found for it, as its reputation originally arose solely on the strength of Mr. Dickens's name, and as such has continued. Should it not be bought, it will lapse and become defunct; but in either case Mr. Dickens intends very shortly starting, on his own account, a periodical of a similar nature, to which he will take the entire staff of present contributors, and which will commence with a new story from his own pen. I don't imagine that Mr. Thackeray, who perfectly well knows what classes of society form his audience, would undertake the conduct of a publication at the "Household Words" price, and it is perfectly certain that Mr. G. A. Sala will have nothing to do with the affair, as he has already an immensity of current work, and starts in July on a trip to the southern states of America, to pick up material for future use.

Imitations of the "Rejected Addresses" will be constant; fresh parodists spring up as quickly as new poets, and are generally as unreadable. Here is the last of the lot: a gentleman who disguises himself under the signature of "Ben Trovato," and in a little book called "Rival Rhymes," celebrates the centenary of Burns, in imitations of many distinguished poets. The book is a curious *melée* of some extremely good and some remarkably bad parodies. A Scotch poem, in imitation of Burns, is ludicrously excellent. Campbell is capably imitated; so are Father Prout, Tupper, and, best of all, Longfellow; though the hexameters are disfigured by vulgarism and untutored slang of course, not to be found in the original. "The Poet's Birth," a parody on Tennyson (by the way, "laureate" is spelt with a final "e," Mr. B. Trovato!) has not the smallest scrap of resemblance to "Maud," on which it is supposed to be founded, has many double rhymes, used in places where Tennyson never would have put them, and is also slangy and vulgar. In his imitation of Macaulay, the parodist loses himself entirely, and treats us to several stanzas in imitation of Scott; and there is a prose composition, supposed to be written by Mr. Thackeray, which is not in the least like, but smacks somewhat of the style in which one can suppose Mr. Carlyle would talk at an evening party. The following extracts will show the author's good and bad style:—

## Goon. (After Burns.)

"Gang wi' me to Lissadernie,  
Coffin dearie,  
Paukie dearie,  
Where Chackambell is clatterin' electric,  
We're aiblins blith' expectin' O!  
The hushon'd cost afore the yett  
Wi' clapp o' clout, and cankerous fret,  
Seems blatherin'—'Lasse, hide ye yett'  
Mess John mairn be neglectit, O!"

## Raid. (After Tennyson.)

"Midwives are hard as millstones: expectant father's emotions  
Are dragged by the heart's wild tie, like seashore shingle,  
Striking complaint, when the fierce assault of the ocean  
Beat them all round, without an exception, angle."

Here even the "Maud" metre is not preserved, while the grammar, it will be seen, suffers terribly.

What are they doing at the Old Water Colour Society? There are still three vacant memberships, and it seems impossible to fill them up. Among recent candidates were Mr. Birket Foster and Mr. Leitch; but the Electing Council (whoever they may be) declared that none of the candidates were sufficiently up to the mark to be admitted members. From what I hear, a pleasant spirit of harmony reigns in the Society: thus, A. disliking C, B's friend, blackballs him; then B takes excellent care that A's friend shall not get in, and this is carried on throughout the alphabet.

## THE GARRICK CLUB "DIFFICULTY."

MR. EDMUND YATES has published, in the form of a pamphlet, the facts and correspondence connected with his differences with Mr. Thackeray and the Garrick Club. His reason for so doing he states to be that the question between the parties (that of the legality of Mr. Yates's expulsion from the club) "no longer awaits the decision of any legal court." In the pamphlet before us, the origin of the dispute is set forth at length. In an article in an obscure periodical, Mr. Yates had commented (from actual observation, more or less correct) upon Mr. Thackeray's personal appearance and style of conversation. Two days after the appearance of this article, Mr. Thackeray wrote to Mr. Yates a letter in which he stigmatised the article as "not offensive and unfriendly merely, but slanderous and untrue;" and requested Mr. Yates, henceforth, to forego discussions, however blundering, upon his (Mr. Thackeray's) private affairs. "I suppose," says Mr. Yates, "I may assume it to be clear that this letter is intentionally arrogant and offensive." In the reply, the charge of being slanderous and untrue was retorted upon Mr. Thackeray's own letter. Mr. Thackeray, in return, forwarded a formal notice that he had laid the correspondence before the committee of the Garrick Club in preference to continuing a personal controversy. The secretary of the club, on the same day, announced that a special meeting of the committee had been called to consider the subject of Mr. Thackeray's complaint. Mr. Yates protested that the matter was not one for the consideration of the club; that the objectionable article made no reference to the club, referred to no conversation having taken place, and violated no confidence reposed, there. The committee, nevertheless, decided, on their meeting, that it was competent for them to enter into the subject; that Mr. Thackeray's complaints against Mr. Yates were well founded (we may here remark that Mr. Thackeray does not appear to have forwarded to the club any comment upon the matter beyond that contained in his letter to Mr. Yates); that Mr. Yates was bound to apologise, or to retire from the club. Mr. Yates respectfully declined the alternative, but added, that he would gladly apologise were the terms of Mr. Thackeray's letter less offensive. He then appealed from the opinion of the committee to that of a general meeting of the members. To such general meeting he expressed his sincere regret that ever he wrote the "unfortunate article." As Mr. Thackeray, however, was expressly excluded from the benefit of this apology, it does not appear to have gone far to allay angry feeling, and the general meeting, by a majority of 70 to 46, confirmed, to its utmost extent, the decision of the committee. Mr. Yates then resolved to bring the question at issue before a legal tribunal, and attended at the club for the purpose of having his ingress arrested. This was done by the secretary, and Mr. Yates commenced an action for the trespass. The secretary pleaded that the whole property of the club was vested in trustees, the only parties responsible in connection therewith. The effect of this plea is simply to throw Mr. Yates upon his remedy in the Court of Chancery, which Mr. Yates designates as a medium at once "easy, expeditious, and inexpensive." He therefore prudently prefers to abandon all further proceedings, and to publish the statement before us.

In this statement he says:—"In reciting the foregoing documents, and impartially stating the facts associated with them, I have but one object: I wish to enable every gentleman to judge of this case for himself, and to form his own opinion of its merits. I desire to present to every honourable and generous mind before which these pages may come, the inquiry, whether I have or have not patiently endeavoured to try the question between the Garrick Club and myself upon its own just merits; and whether, while this has been my object, divested of any irritating or disagreeable accompaniment, the committee—a body of gentlemen not to be questioned in their individual capacity—have taken refuge in little Old Bailey resources usually unknown to gentlemen."

A letter from Mr. Charles Dickens to Mr. Thackeray, upon the subject of the dispute, forms a portion of the correspondence. Mr. Dickens suggests a mediation, and says that he shall be heartily glad to do his best in it—"God knows, in no hostile spirit, least of all to you. If it cannot take place, the thing is at least no worse than it was, and you will burn this letter, and I will burn your answer." Mr. Thackeray replied that, since submitting his case to the club, he had, and could have, no part in the dispute, and referred to the club alone for the adjustment of it. He nevertheless wrote to the club, with reference to the dispute—"If you can devise any peaceful means for ending it, no one will be better pleased than your faithful servant." It is, perhaps, superfluous to add, that no adjustment of the difference has taken place, or appears probable.

Such are the particulars of one of the most recent "Quarrels of Authors," which we publish not only on account of the perhaps undue interest with which the public generally appears to regard such matters, but because, in such a case as this, a plain and simple statement of facts tends, as a rule, to check much of that misrepresentation and exaggeration which naturally arise when stories pass current through unauthentic channels.

DISASTERS AT SEA.—The Beagle came in collision with the Thalia, iron screw steamship, on Saturday, about thirty miles south-west of Eddystone Light. The steamer, which had a valuable cargo of wine on board, was sunk. The crew succeeded in getting on board the Beagle, which itself had an extensive leak; her bowsprit, cutwater, and stern being crushed.—A large vessel was found waterlogged and deserted near Arran last week. She was towed into Galway harbour by two fishing-smacks.—Intelligence has been received that the bodies of six seamen have been washed ashore on the North Island of Arran.—A smack got ashore on the Goodwin Sands, and went to pieces. Boats put off from the shore and saved the crew.

THE FRENCH CHAMBER AND THE BUDGET.—An important communication has been made to the Government by the Finance Commission of the Legislative Chamber appointed to examine and report on the budget for the next year. The Commission call upon the Government to declare whether that budget is seriously meant as a peace budget, as they could not be expected to occupy themselves with any but bona fide estimates, and they cannot believe that they will be called upon to vote supplementary credits. They repeat, they cannot believe that any addition to the ordinary expenditure will be demanded, particularly as they know of no just cause and of no just pretext for war. The Commission is named by the whole Chamber, and the Chamber is assumed to represent the nation; we may, therefore, consider the declaration of the Commission as the exact expression of the wishes of the country.



# GOLDEN ISLAND AND THE YANG-TSE-KIANG.

ONE of the most picturesque features that met the eyes of Lord Elgin and his companions in their ascent of the Yang-tse-Kiang, was the far-famed rock, the "Golden Island," of which we give an engraving. Golden Island is celebrated not only on account of its extreme beauty, but also for the many religious associations connected with it.

At the very summit of the rock stands a pagoda a thousand years old, dedicated to and built at the expense of the Tang dynasty. Hosts of pilgrims from out of every province in China, and from the uttermost limits of Tartary, crowd to it with their pious offerings. Chinese historians tell us that while the foundations for this renowned temple were being excavated, a rich auriferous vein was discovered, and it is from this circumstance that the title of Golden Island is borrowed.

A correspondent who accompanied the expedition up the great Chinese river, gives the following account:—

"The squadron, consisting of the *Retribution*, *Furious*, *Cruiser*, *Dove*, and *Lee*, left the mouth of the Shanghai river on the morning of the 9th of last November. On the morning of the 16th we were gratified by the sight of Silver Island. We were just feasting our eyes on the magnificent prospect afforded by the reach which opens Chinkiang-foo and Golden Island, when the *Furious* suddenly attracted attention by striking on a sunken rock in the channel between Silver Island and the shore, in the spot marked sixteen fathoms in the chart, and which the whole British fleet had passed in 1842 without discovering it. It was only by the removal of 260 tons, and the most unremitting exertions for three days, that she was at last released from her disagreeable position, without having, so far as it was possible to discover, sustained any material damage.

"The delay enabled some of the party to visit the city of Chinkiang, and here, for the first time, we came in contact with those scenes of desolation and of ruin which bore evidence of rebel occupation, and which afterwards became so painfully familiar to us. Both in suburb and city tumble-down walls and heaps of rubbish extended over the vast area once densely inhabited, and the deserted streets were now overgrown with weeds so rank and sturdy that they seemed to have entered into permanent possession. On the 20th we were once more under way, and came in sight of Nankin.

"On nearing Nankin, it was determined to avoid, if possible, any collision with the rebels, and the *Lee* was sent about a mile in advance of the squadron, with Mr. Wade on board, to communicate only in the event of any message coming off from the rebels in the first instance. With a gaze of intense interest we followed the little vessel, as she steamed fearlessly past one battery after another; at last, just as she seemed to us to have passed them all, a little white puff of smoke showed that she was fired on, and the cheery pipe and hoarse beat to quarters started the deck of every ship into full life and activity. In obedience to her instructions, the *Lee* was no sooner fired upon than Lieutenant Jones hoisted a large white flag of truce; this was fired upon eight times in rapid succession, and, as the 'engage' signal was by this time flying from the *Retribution's* masthead, it was promptly replied to by each ship as she came abreast of the first battery. Lord Elgin, who remained on deck during the action, while standing on the paddle-box, was nearly struck by a round shot, which cut a rope

a few feet over his head. Shortly after five o'clock p.m. all the forts were passed, and we took up a position for the night about two miles above the city.

"It appears that Lord Elgin thoroughly agreed with Captains Barker and Osborn in thinking that no time should be lost in inflicting summary chastisement on the rebels for the temerity of which they had been guilty, for day had scarcely dawned when the ships began to drop down with the tide opposite the city, the *Cruiser*

engaging the fort on the north side of the river, which is here about 1,000 yards broad, and the remaining ships those on the south. In about half-an-hour all the forts were effectually silenced without any loss to ourselves, and at the end of a bombardment of an hour and a half the work of destruction and intimidation seemed sufficiently complete. We then pushed on, and shortly after passed an Imperial junk fleet engaging a rebel fort. From the ships' tops we could discern the beleaguering host of the imperialist army, crowning the hills in the rear of Nankin, their encampments forming a complete and extended semi-circle round the devoted city, which they have been so long and ineffectually engaged in besieging.

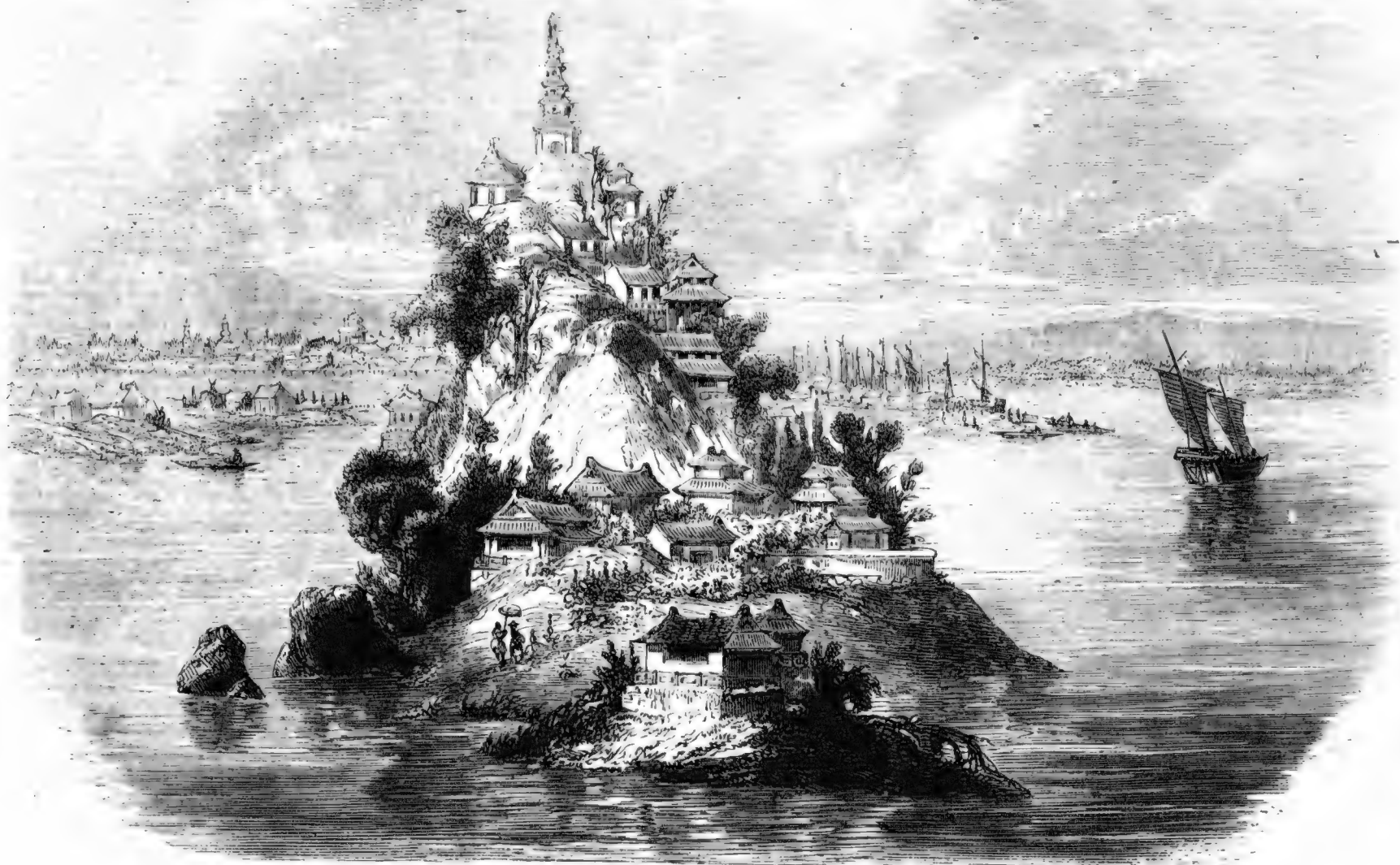
"In the course of the same afternoon some flaunting rebels in gay colours had the audacity to wave defiant flags and fire gongs at us; but when they brought a gun to bear upon us from a small redoubt we considered the joke had gone far enough, and, after two or three shots from the *Retribution* and *Furious*, a well-directed 58-pounder from the former knocked the whole of their gingerbread fort into smithereens, and sent its occupants scampering over the open plain, their long yellow and red robes streaming in the wind, in ludicrous dismay and confusion. On the following day we were again delayed by shoals, and did not reach the rebel town of Woohoo till the afternoon of the 23rd. Here we were received with so much civility by the insurgents that some of us landed, and were treated with great politeness by their chief, a Canton man of a low type, surrounded by a disorderly rabble of opium-smoking disreputable-looking men and youths, the latter in preponderance, tricked out in the usual show of gaudy plumage. Altogether we were most unfavourably impressed with the general aspect of these gentry, whose religious knowledge consisted but of a confused jumble of the persons of the Godhead, and whose practice, to judge by the scourge they have proved to the country, the reputation they have left behind them, and their own admission, is far below that of professing Christians generally.

"With the exception of Woohoo, and one or two unimportant places near it, the whole south bank, from Nankin to Ganking, a distance of 150 miles, is in the hands of the rebels. At one place the beauty of the scenery received quite a theatrical effect from a picturesque battle which was taking place between the rebel and imperialist land forces. Though the fire was by no means serious, the waving flags and bright costumes of the advancing and retreating hosts imparted an air of lively animation to the scene. We arrived on the 26th off the rebel city of Ganking; as this is their last post up the river, and one which has been for some time besieged by the imperialist forces, we anticipated some opposition to our progress; in this we were not disappointed. The ships no sooner came within range than a battery opened fire upon them: a ten minutes' bombardment sent the whole of the brave garrison flying into the plains in the rear, where the imperialist army, taking advantage of the diversion in their favour, were rapidly advancing to the attack.

"We had now got clear of the rebel country, and the only anxiety which remained as to our onward progress was confined to that passive species of resistance offered by sandbanks. . . . Now for the first time we began to observe a few trading junks moving about the river, but the population had at no time since our entry into the Yang-



YOUNG CHINESE GIRL.



GOLDEN ISLAND, ON THE YANG-TSE-KIANG.



tse-Kiang appeared so dense as to justify the fabulous accounts which have heretofore been current on the subject.

In consequence of the difficulties of navigation, and sundry delays on the sandbanks, it was not until the 6th of December that we were cheered by the view of our long-wished-for destination.

"The first view of Hankow is eminently disappointing; as seen from the neighbouring heights, it does not seem to cover an area greater than the western suburb of Canton, while the city of Han-yang, situated on the opposite side of the Han, which here joins the Yang-tse, is now a mere heap of ruins, and has at no time been a city of any extent. But the provincial city of Wochang, which occupies a noble site on the southern shore, in some measure compensates by its handsome appearance and great extent for the comparative meanness of its neighbours. Hankow is, however, much belied by its external aspect, and in this instance, as in many others, a first impression is apt to mislead. The streets are handsomer and broader, and the shops loftier and better stocked, than those of any city now open to Europeans, while there was an air of activity and bustle in the streets quite refreshing after the torpor and apathy which had succeeded the rebel reign elsewhere. The Han river, a small tributary, about a hundred yards broad, contained more junks than we had seen during the whole course of our voyage, while the streets were crowded with natives of almost every province in the empire. Not, however, that any vast population had yet collected in this once popular mart. A million of souls is a liberal allowance for the present united population of the three cities."

Lord Elgin having paid a visit of ceremony to Kwan, the governor-general of the provinces of Hunan and Hupeh, which was returned by the Chinese official, the expedition started on its return voyage. For some time, everything went on tolerably well—the rebels having been taught not to interfere with the fire-ships—when, to the dismay of all, the river was found to have shoaled considerably. At one point, the water had fallen as much as seven feet since their ascent. After making some further progress, it became necessary for Lord Elgin and the rest of the mission to leave the larger vessels, now stuck hard and fast, and take to the *Dore* and *Lee* gun-boats. Though somewhat crowded for room, there only being in each boat one cabin, the mission reached Shanghai in safety, after an absence altogether of fifty days.

#### EDWIN JAMES, ESQ., Q.C., M.P.

MR. EDWIN JAMES, barrister, who has just been returned to Parliament as M.P. for Marylebone, by a majority of some 6,000 to 3,000 over his less advanced Whig opponent, Colonel F. Romilly, is a gentleman who has long been in the enjoyment of a first-rate practice at the criminal bar. He is the eldest son of John James, Esq., solicitor, and for many

years Secondary of the City of London. His mother was daughter of Mr. Boyce Combe, brother of Alderman Combe, sometime M.P. for the City of London, well known as the personal friend of Fox and Sheridan.

Mr. James was born, we believe, at the close of the year 1811, or early in the following year, and was educated partly under a private tutor, and partly at the foundation grammar-school of Chichester. He was called to the bar by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple in January, 1836, and for many years has gone the Home Circuit. He was appointed Recorder of Brighton in 1852. Two years later he became "one of her Majesty's counsel learned in the law."

Mr. James's reputation has been gained as an advocate for the defence in many important criminal prosecutions, in which he has been remarkably successful; but the *cause célèbre* which especially tended to establish his fame as a pleader, and his popularity as a politician, and which made it a matter of certainty that we should see him in Parliament, was his successful defence of Bernard, who was tried at the Old Bailey,

the edge of the skirt. These bands become gradually narrow from the shoulder to the waist, and they widen from the waist downward. They are edged at each side with small black velvet buttons. Up the front of the robe there is a row of small brandebourgs of passementerie. The sleeves, which are very wide, and slit up in front of the arm, are trimmed with bands of black velvet and buttons in the same style as the skirt. The cap consists of a *fanchon*, or half handkerchief of white lace, the ends fastened under the chin by a small brooch. On one side is a bouquet of roses. The under sleeves are puffs of white muslin trimmed with lace, and small bows of black velvet.

The next figure, in ball costume, shows a robe of amber-colour satin. The skirt has side-trimmings, *entablée*, formed of three bouillonés of tulle, edged with blonde, and disposed in festoons. On the curve of each festoon there is a bouquet of violets fixed by an agrafe of amethysts. Up the front of the skirt are four festoons of blonde, enlarging from the waist downwards. They are headed by rows of amethysts, and



EDWIN JAMES, Q.C., M.P. FOR MARYLEBONE.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN WATKINS.)

in January, 1858, under a government prosecution for being concerned in the conspiracy against the life of the Emperor Louis Napoleon, for which Orsini and Pierri suffered by the guillotine. Mr. Edwin James is unmarried.

#### PARIS FASHIONS.

MANY dresses are now made without points at the waist; that is to say, in the style called by the French milliners the *taille ronde*. Nevertheless, the point is too becoming to be readily discarded, especially by ladies who are not very slim. To some figures, the corsage pointed, both in front and at the back, is decidedly advantageous.

Dresses with double skirts frequently have the upper one sloped so as to droop behind, like that shown in one of the figures of our illustration. For full dress, this style is very fashionable. At several of the recent balls in Paris the Princess Clotilde wore an upper skirt or tunic sloped in this style. Many ball dresses of white tulle are bespangled with small silver spots. The tunics of these dresses are edged with rows of silver fringe. The effect is perfectly fairy-like. An evening dress, in a style presenting some novelty, may be here described. It was composed of white tulle, with a trimming of bouilloné to the height of the knees; amidst the bouilloné small rose-buds were fixed at regular intervals; a tunic of white silk, with broad pink stripes, was gathered up at each side by bows of ribbon and bouquets of roses. In evening dress, feathers are much worn in the head. A favourite coiffure consists of a net of gold or of silver or of pearls, entirely enclosing the hair at the back part of the head. With one of these nets, a plume of small ostrich feathers, or a bouquet of marabouts, has a very elegant effect.

#### THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

The lady on the extreme left wears a robe of Azof green moire antique, with trimmings of black velvet and passementerie. Two broad bands of black velvet ornament the front of the dress, extending from the shoulders to





nished at each end by bouquets of violets. The front of the corsage is entirely covered with bouillonés, and rows of amethysts. In front of the corsage and on each shoulder there is a bouquet of violets. Head-dresses, violets intermingled with amethysts.

The figure next in order represents a dress, with double skirt, of lilac silk. The lower skirt is edged with a trimming composed of crossings of lilac velvet, disposed in the lozenge form. The upper skirt droops at the back, is trimmed with bands of lilac velvet diverging *en éventail* from the waist. The ends of these bands of velvet are finished by small rosettes of silk. The corsage is trimmed in corresponding style. The sleeves have epaulettes composed of crossings of velvet, and are edged with trimming of the same. Three bands of velvet, finished with rosettes, descend from the shoulders *en éventail*. Bonnet of lilac and white silk; the crown lilac, and in loose plaits; the front and bayonet of white silk trimmed with blue. Across the front is a row of *pompons* of lilac silk.

The lady on the extreme right wears a robe of mauve-colour poplin, with double skirt. The upper one has *moutons*, or longitudinal rows of trimming, formed of *plissés* of silk, confined at intervals by bands of mauve velvet. The corsage is not pointed at the waist, and is ornamented in front with a *plissé* of silk and bands of mauve velvet. The sleeves, which are extremely wide, have *moutons* corresponding with those on the skirt. Bonnet of white tulle, disposed in plaits, and crossed by bands of silk. The under trimming is of white marabouts; and the collar and under sleeves of Valenciennes, with bows of black velvet.

#### THE ARTILLERY OF THE FUTURE.

In making his statement in reference to the army and its expenses a few days ago, the Secretary-at-War imported one feature which will distinguish it from all expositions of a similar character. General Peel made a formal announcement of an approved invention, which, even in the moderation of official language, he described as likely to supersede the whole existing armaments of the country. This marvellous discovery is Sir W. Armstrong's gun—a weapon screened from the gaze of the public with jealous care. From General Peel's own mouth we learn that there is no delusion about the efficacy of this tremendous instrument. In extent of range, destructive effect, portability, and precision, it appears to possess a combination of advantages truly astounding. It weighs but one-third of an ordinary cannon of corresponding calibre; it is so manageable that it can be worked by a far smaller number of hands; and it is so durable that 1,300 discharges produced not the least injury to the specimen piece. This gun, then, not being liable to damage or wear, like the ordnance at Sebastopol or Sweaborg, and not clogged with the ordinary drawbacks of weight or immovability, throws its shot with the most deadly accuracy to a distance scarcely credible. The days of the "long range" have now actually come. A 32-pounder of Sir W. Armstrong's make, will, when charged with 5lb. of powder, carry a ball more than FIVE MILES AND A QUARTER! What is its accuracy at this distance we do not learn, but at 3,000 yards, or nearly two miles, its precision is as great as that of the common gun at 1,000 yards, while at 1,000 yards it literally hits every time in fifty-seven an object which a common gun in that number of discharges would only hit once! In other words, the destructiveness of artillery has by this discovery been multiplied more than fifty-fold.

But another gun is talked of, of still greater value. This also is a breech-loader and rifled, and as long as it is supplied with ammunition it will continue to pour forth a torrent of shot, shell, or case, at the rate of one discharge every three seconds, or 1,200 rounds per hour. Yet, notwithstanding this unprecedented rapidity of fire, instead of becoming heated, as an ordinary piece of artillery does after twenty or thirty rounds, the new gun, in consequence of the admission of a current of air even during the brief and almost imperceptible interval between these discharges, remains comparatively cool. This gun is the invention of Mr. Werry, of the Royal Engineers. He has succeeded in fitting to it, at the left side of the chamber, a lever of simple construction, which by one movement and almost at the same instant, seizes the cartridge, cuts it, applies the priming to the nipple, hermetically closes the breech, and fires the charge. In precision it equals any gun that has yet been tried. This invention can be applied to all our existing ordnance of whatever calibre, and at a comparatively trifling cost. This is a very material consideration in its favour. The number of guns on board the different men-of-war in existence in the British service exceeded 15,000; that being the case, it is easy to perceive what an enormous outlay would be entailed upon the country by the replacement of this immense quantity of matériel. If, however, as is reported, these guns can all be rifled and fitted with the ingenious adaptation now patented by Mr. Werry, an immediate outlay of many hundred thousand pounds would be wholly obviated, while time—a far more important consideration still—would be saved.

**THE MACINTOSH SYSTEM OF WARFARE.**—A lecture was delivered in the theatre of the United Service Institution, last week, by Mr. Macintosh, on the use of combustible materials in the strategies of war. He proposed to aid our navy in attacking strong sea forts, by an incendiary naval steam brigade, consisting of small steamers, having suitable iron compartments, filled with a compound, composed of prepared coal-tar naphtha. These vessels would be sent in, wind and tide favouring, with a time fuse ignited, leading to a bursting charge; on exploding the bursting charge, the inflammable fluid would be scattered on the surface of the water, causing the immediate ignition of the naphtha, and producing a dense black suffocating smoke, which, driven by the wind against the sea faces, enters the embrasures, and either suffocates or drives away the enemy's gunners. Another plan was to discharge a sufficient quantity of the naphtha upon the surface of the water to windward of the fortress, and ignite it by means of a shell or rocket, containing naphtha and potassium; with the great affinity of the latter for oxygen, the floating liquid which cannot mix with the water will be immediately inflamed. The lecturer then explained a method of driving the enemy from their earthworks, by firing into them diaphragm shells filled with the compound, and containing a bursting charge. The naphtha from the shell saturates the earth, and continues to burn with a dense smoke. There was also another kind of shell for use against troops, the shower of inflammable material from which sets fire to anything combustible with which it comes in contact. A third kind of shell was described, containing naphtha with a few pills of potassium, which, on the bursting of the shell, ignite the naphtha. These would be useful for marine purposes, for firing into harbours amongst shipping, stores, &c. The lecture was attended by the Earl of Shrewsbury, Lords Overstone, Ingestre, and Ranelagh; Lieutenant-General Sir W. Codrington, General Cannon, Vice-Admiral Burton, Major Farrell, Captain Stopford, R.N.; and many members of the naval and military professions.

#### MILTON'S GENEALOGY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SIR,—It may be of interest to your readers to know that I have succeeded in determining the unsettled point in Milton's genealogy, by means of a record kindly obtained for me by Mr. Park Nelson, clerk of the Scriveners' Company, by which it appears that on the 27th of February, 1599, John Milton, son of Richard Milton, of Stanton (sic) Co. Oxon, a late apprentice to James Collron, was admitted to the freedom of this company. This decides that the name of the poet's grandfather was Richard, and identifies him, according to Mr. Hunter's conjecture, with Richard Milton, of Stanton, St. John's, Oxfordshire, assessed to the subsidy 17 Edw., 1577, fined for recusancy £60 in the 43 Edw., and again on the 13th of July, 1601. The grandfather was therefore a Roman Catholic, as attested by Aubrey. This makes available Professor Masson's discovery of Henry Milton of Stanton, St. John's, who is now shown to be great-grandfather of the poet, and that he was descended from the Oxfordshire stock. Aubrey's account of Milton the scrivener is shown to be erroneous, for the latter was apprenticed, and did not become a scrivener by purchase or redemption. John Milton the scrivener must have been born in 1577-8, and not, as supposed by Professor Masson, in 1562-3. At the time of his death, in 1647, he would be sixty-nine years old. He began practice in 1599, and married soon after. It now appears unlikely that the scrivener, as alleged, went to college at Oxford, but he may have attended a grammar-school there before his apprenticeship, Stanton, St. John's, being four miles and a half distant. I consider that any difference between Henry and John Milton, on the ground of religion, must have taken place at a later period of life than the time of the latter leaving Stanton; that he was apprenticed by Henry to the respectable trade of a scrivener, confirmed in London, found conformity useful in business, and that thereby the dispute arose, Richard being alive and having been fined as a recusant after his son was admitted as a scrivener.

42, Basinghall Street, March 4, 1859.

HYDE CLARKE.

THREE PORTRAITS of an important character have been added to the national collection: a full-length of James I. in his youth; a portrait of Wil- low Winchester, Lord High-Treasurer under Queen Elizabeth; and a portrait of the Countess of Pembroke—"Sidney's sister—Pembroke's mother." There is an inscription in the left-hand corner of the picture which puzzles every one—"Martij 12<sup>o</sup>, Anno Domini 1614. No spring till now."

#### OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE Royal English Opera closes next week. The "Crown Diamonds," was to have been produced on Friday; and on Monday Mr. Harrison will take his benefit, on which occasion "Martha" will be revived. The Italian season at Covent Garden, which commences in April, will last until August; and the Pyne and Harrison company will enter upon their second season early in October.

Letters from Sydenham give sad accounts of the "Edipus" of Mendelssohn, with recitations by Mr. Nicholls, to which visitors to the Crystal Palace were recently subjected. The "Edipus" was felt to be "Edipus tyrannus," and many were the yawns (mental groans) that escaped from the exhausted audience. The influence of the Germans, unless something be done to check it, will soon make all Europe as dull as Germany. The country of clouds has already had a most pernicious effect on our literature, and if we had any national school of music, that also would suffer. The pedantic mind asserts itself in Germany in every branch of art. If some of the great writers have thought they could replace religion by philosophy, a few of the painters have conceived the astounding project of producing pictures which shall stand in lieu of books. Kaulbach, whose enormous (and certainly admirably painted) works in the New Museum at Berlin, threw so much light on certain historical epochs, and which are absolutely intelligible, after we have read the long descriptions of them published in the official hand-book, has his counterpart in every composer who tries to make music express more than lies naturally within the province of that art. There are many things of which music is incapable, and certainly it is impossible, by means of it, to re-construct the old Greek drama, in which—whichever be the worthier of the two—words meant more than sounds, whereas in modern music sounds mean more than words. In the meanwhile, a reverer of the great German composers—who are, indeed, admirable except when they attempt the impossible—writes to us, in the character of an *habitué* of the Crystal Palace Concerts, to complain of some changes which have been made in the orchestra of that establishment, under circumstances which we cannot but consider creditable to the directors. "During the revelries of Christmas," he says, "it was announced, among other pantomimic puffs, that an excellent quadrille band would perform on the top of a twelfth cake in the centre transept for the holiday folks to dance to. What was the surprise of Herr Mann's first-rate artistes, on their arrival, to find that, without any previous notice, his quadrille band recant themselves, and that they were expected to mount this gigantic toy, and rank themselves with the performers outside any booth in a fair—a purpose for which they had never been engaged. They accordingly, through their leading members, respectfully declined to play mountebank upon the twelfth-cake, and a calm letter of remonstrance was drawn up on behalf of the whole band, and signed by the four principal performers, stating good reasons for their objections. This letter was laid before the directors, who, in the worst of taste, have dismissed the four representatives; at the same time acknowledging themselves in the wrong, by at once contriving a proper orchestra for the band to perform in. Now the four who have been so dismissed are the cream of this band; three of them are first-rate solo performers, who have been among the 'shining stars' of our concerts, and the fourth is an equally good musician. I appeal, sir, to any one who has, since this rupture, attended their concerts, to know if the music has not lamentably fallen off; if the justly-celebrated band is not a thing of the past?" Putting aside the question of injustice to the subscribers, it certainly appears to us that the four musicians who, in the name of their *confères*, protested against being compelled to play quadrilles on the top of a twelfth-cake, have been treated most illiberally and unfairly. It is true we have seen the late Herr König play the penny trumpet at Jullien's—but then he was not forced to do it, which makes all the difference. M. Vivier, too, the celebrated horn-player, is said to be addicted to the blowing of soap-bubbles, but then he blows them on his own account. In the same way there would be nothing very astonishing in musicians getting on the top of a twelfth-cake and playing for the amusement of their own friends—if their friends were dull enough to see the last fun in such a proceeding; but that an attempt should be made to force performers to such an absurdity—performers, moreover, of the highest attainments, and taking a serious view of art, which the directors of the Crystal Palace have shown that they are incapable of doing—that such an attempt as this should be made, proves not only that this establishment, which was to have had so much effect in "elevating the masses," is managed by charlatans, but that its managers really believe in nothing but charlatanism.

A concert, most numerous attended, was given on Tuesday evening, at St. Martin's Hall, for the benefit of the Great Northern Hospital. This admirable institution is much in debt, the cause of which is easily explained. It is free to all sick and destitute persons, no form of recommendation being required. The applications for relief have far exceeded the resources of the hospital, yet, during its first year, there were admitted 167 in, and 28,361 out-patients. "These facts (as the address states) more than justify an urgent appeal for support, and the committee look hopefully to the future, deeply impressed with the feeling that an institution of such value and importance will not be suffered to lessen its usefulness, nor left unable to answer to the cry of want and suffering." We are happy to say that, as far as the attendance was concerned, the concert was most successful. It is undeniable, however, that for the large sum paid to the *entrepreneur* of the affair, a much better entertainment might have been provided. The first part was devoted to Mr. Leslie's light, but not lively, "Biblical cantata" of "Judith." The words of "Judith" have been selected from the Apocrypha and Bible by Mr. Henry F. Chorley, and it must suffice to say that the legend is divided into three scenes, the first laid in the beleaguered city of Bethulia, the second in the camp of Holofernes, the third ("Night and Daybreak") devoted to the sacrifice of the invading chieftain and the triumphant return of the heroine of Israel. Each scene is preluded by an instrumental movement, and the entire performance occupies about as much time as a long single act of an oratorio. The cantata contains three or four elaborately developed choruses. The principal or heroine's part is written for a mezzo-soprano voice, and was taken on Tuesday by Madame Viardot, its original representative. Belletti was Holofernes, and in the absence of Mr. Sims Reeves (still indisposed), the character of Ozus was assigned to Mr. Montem Smith. The soprano part—that of the Hebrew *confidante*, originally played by Madame Castellani—was given to Madame Endersohn. Madame Viardot did her best to give impressiveness to Judith's prayer in the camp of Holofernes, and sang with a semblance of dramatic force the appeal to the God of Israel, which forms the climax to the first part. The trio in Part 2, one of the most ambitious pieces in the "Biblical cantata," might have been written for a comic opera, and the music of Judith may be dismissed generally as utterly wanting in loftiness; or, to use other words, in appropriateness. The subject of Judith is thoroughly dramatic, and Mr. Chorley has treated it with much skill; but the composer has failed in his portion of the work, and in spite of the occasional applause with which various pieces were received on Tuesday evening, we cannot imagine that the cantata will be often heard in London or elsewhere. It will be remembered that it was first produced at the Birmingham Festival in 1858. In the second part of the concert Miss Arabella Goddard made her *réentrée*, and performed the "concert-stuck" most admirably. She had, of course, played this piece before in public, but never so firmly and brilliantly as on Tuesday evening.

ROSSINI, departing from his determination to compose no more music, has composed an Ave Maria for the Empress Eugénie.

MISS HARLEY, only surviving sister of the late Mr. Harley, comedian, died last week, having only survived her brother, to whom she was greatly devoted, six months.

A PATENT has been taken out by a medical gentleman—Mr. Henry Reynolds—for making glycerine in any quantity from the "spirit lees" of soap-works. Considering how numerous are the applications of glycerine, the discovery is important.

#### LAW AND CRIME.

AN adjourned hearing took place on Saturday last, at Bow Street, of certain charges brought against John Gibson Bennett, who, under the pseudonym of Dr. Watters, Dr. Colston, "house surgeon," and others, has for some time been carrying on an extensive system of fraud, by means of advertisements to cure deafness in ten minutes. It may be remembered that his plans were a short time since exposed through the medium of the Westminster County Court, on a plaint brought to recover £5 5s., paid to him by one of his victims. The man appears to have been for some time past living in great style at Richmond; and after the report just mentioned appeared in the journals, to have had the audacity to publish handbills offering £50 reward for the discovery of persons propagating statements to his discredit. At the first hearing of the case, at Bow Street, which was founded upon his having received moneys under false pretences, the defendant did not appear, although represented by counsel and attorney. His attorney, a Mr. Haynes, undertook that he, Bennett, should be present on the adjourned hearing, and, on this understanding, the magistrate postponed the case. On the adjournment, neither the defendant nor Mr. Haynes were present. The last-named sent his son, who stated that his father had no further instructions. The magistrate thereupon allowed evidence to be taken in support of an application for a warrant, and this evidence disclosed a series of the most revolting impositions and extortions. It was proved that for cases of "mixture" delivered from "The British and Foreign Ear Infirmary," the defendant had actually received sums varying from five to a hundred pounds, according to the wealth or gullibility of the patient. These mixtures, moreover, were proved, not only by chemical analysis, but by oral testimony, to consist exclusively of urine and alum. False testimonials, signed with false names, had been promulgated by Bennett and his confederates, testifying to his success in curing deafness of "twenty-three years' standing." His brother, William Bennett, had assisted him in his nefarious practices. On one occasion, William Bennett, under the name of Dr. Bennett, had sent his assistant to the house of a respectable old gentleman at Notting Hill, who had been duped into placing himself in the quack's hands. While Bennett remained at a neighbouring tavern, drinking there two glasses of brandy-and-water, his accomplice was busy rubbing the filthy "mixture" into the infatuated dupe's back. For this operation £12 12s. was charged. "I think," observed Bennett, on this occasion, "that I must let Mr. K— off for twelve guineas, but if I can drop it into him for more, I will." The two brothers were shown to have been at one time in the billiard and "card-sharping" line. Warrants were granted for their apprehension. An indictment, on which the grand jury have since found a true bill, was laid against them at the Middlesex Sessions, and in this indictment, Mr. Haynes, attorney, is reported to have been included, on what grounds does not at present appear. Meanwhile, in illustration of a curious fact which we have several times had occasion to remark, that of the simultaneous development of kindred species of crime, at the exact period when these disclosures were being made in London, Baron Watson was trying a quack at Winchester, for manslaughter. The prisoner, Benjamin Crook, residing at Marlborough, Wiltshire, had professed to cure cancerous diseases. An unfortunate man was afflicted with a cancerous tumor, the size of an egg, upon his neck. His case had been given over as hopeless by experienced surgeons. Crook was then employed. He sprinkled over the swelling some powder, which had the effect of making the part, according to the evidence, "begin to swell and steam wonderfully." The wonder might have been less, had it been known that the application consisted of corrosive sublimate (bi-chloride of mercury), the most powerful of metallic corrosive irritants, compared to the application of which, that of lunar caustic, vitriol, or the "actual cautery" by red-hot iron, might have been a harmless anodyne. The unhappy patient became instantly frantic with agony, and endured fearful torments for nine days, when he perished from the absorption of the poison into his system. The prisoner was convicted, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment, without hard labour. For the lenity of his sentence he had to thank witnesses who deposed to his having cured them of some- what similar disorders. This fact at once reveals to us one of the greatest foundations upon which ignorant quackery generally rests. Every quack doctor, not a double counterfeit, as in the case of Bennett, can boast of and produce occasional cures. The reason is, that as a rule most ordinary diseases have a tendency to cure themselves. Disease generally is in itself an effort of nature towards the expulsion of its exciting cause. Even the pills of the most notorious of pillmongers can boast scores of testimonials, by mistaken patients of the *post hoc, propter hoc*, school of logicians. As an invariable rule, the public should mistrust medical advertisements of all kinds. Advertising doctors are no less dangerous than advertising lawyers, or advertising borrowers of money "for which ample security will be given." The wise will beware of all three classes.

At a ladies' boarding-school, kept by a Mrs. Storey, near Gosport, resided three pretty pupil-teachers. Three apprentices to a chemist in the neighbourhood established a flirtation with the three teachers, not in couples, as might be imagined, but generally. The ladies sent to the young gentlemen book-markers, inscribed "Lovest thou me?" pointed out to them favourite passages in the Song of Solomon, and granted them sly interviews among the laurels in the school-garden. These innocent assignations were once on the point of being discovered by the vigilant Mrs. Storey. Thereupon one of the apprentices sent to the local paper a hoaxing account of an attempted burglary at the boarding-school. Mrs. Storey, thoroughly awakened by the paragraph, retaliated in kind by laying a trap for the "pretended burglars." A policeman was sent to the house during the visit of the three gallant youths, who were there arrested, and taken off handcuffed to the jail. Thereupon one of them, by way of experiment on behalf of his friends, brought an action against Mrs. Storey for false imprisonment. The jury, perhaps considering that the defendant had only returned trick for trick, found a verdict in her favour, and with such a verdict we apprehend no reasonable person will be disposed to find fault. But perhaps a different result might have been obtained had the action been brought against the police, who appear to have entered into a private house and there taken into custody three respectable young men, found there in conversation with, and by express invitation of, the inmates; to have not only arrested but handcuffed the prisoners, and to have entered against them at the station-house a charge of burglary, which for any reasonable probability appearing of its substantiation might just as well have been one of suicide.

The increase of attacks upon unoffending civilians, by drunken soldiers using their belts as weapons of offence, has become recently frightful. The matter has in vain been brought under the notice of the military authorities, who have only responded to appeals from the magistracy and the press by an absurdly inefficient order—depriving the warriors of the privilege of wearing belts after the commission of assaults therewith. On Saturday night last, a dreadful riot was committed in the crowded thoroughfare of the New Cut, Lambeth, by a party of intoxicated Guardsmen, who fell indiscriminately upon all within their reach—police and passengers, whether men, women, or children. The force in which the fellows mustered, and the peculiar and dangerous nature of the weapon wielded by them, protected them from capture; but they were subsequently identified, principally by means of their belts, which, stained with blood, gave sufficient indication of the nature of their night's amusement. Three of them have been thus arrested and await their punishment. Another soldier was charged at the Mansion-house, on Monday, with using his belt in a murderous attack upon a policeman, who offered not the slightest provocation. Since it appears utterly useless to trust to the military authorities for the simple prevention of these brutal attacks upon unoffending persons, it is to be hoped that some member of Parliament will bring the matter before the House, with a view to the repression of the offence, the mere possibility of the continued commission of which is a national scandal and disgrace.

A CROWN were abusing a Lascar in the streets of Chesterfield, when he became enraged, and stabbed a young man in the abdomen, causing death.







alforesaid.—SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1899.